

# GHOULTALES

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**CORPSE IN  
THE COFFIN**

**VOODOO DOLLS**

*THE WITCHES  
CURSE*

**ETERNAL DEATH**



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# GHOUTALES

MARCH 1971

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 3

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# CORPSE IN THE COFFIN

A MAN'S LOVE FOR HIS WOMAN IS THE GREATEST POWER IN THE WORLD. WITH IT HE CAN CLIMB MOUNTAINS, BUILD BRIDGES IN SHORT, WHEN HE HAS IT HE IS KING! BUT WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU TAKE THAT LOVE AWAY! THEN HE BECOMES A TERROR... A **MANIAC**... THERE'S NOTHING HE WON'T DO TO GET IT BACK... EVEN **MURDER!**



**DR. HYDEN** OF THE EGYPTIAN MUSEUM IS THAT MAN IN LOVE. HERE YOU SEE HIM WITH HIS BEAUTIFUL WIFE, **SUSAN**, BUT THE GOOD DOCTOR HAS ANOTHER LOVE... THE STUDY OF **ANCIENT EGYPT!**

IT IS ONLY FITTING THAT I HAVE MY BEAUTIFUL WIFE AND MY FAITHFUL ASSISTANT **LLOYD** HERE WHEN I MAKE THIS ANNOUNCEMENT!... WE ARE GOING TO **FILL** THIS EMPTY **SPACE!**

YOU MEAN AN EXPEDITION TO FIND THE **LOST TOMB OF QUEEN THESBA!**



THAT'S RIGHT... WE LEAVE FOR THE DESERT AT THE END OF THE WEEK! AND **SUSAN** IS GOING WITH US! IT IS ONLY FITTING THAT THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN OF **MODERN TIMES** BE THERE WHEN WE UNVEIL THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN OF THE **PAST! SUSAN AND THESBA**, MY TWO LOVES!





YES, DR. HYDEN HAD TWO LOVES! ONE DEAD, ONE VERY MUCH ALIVE... THE BEAUTIFUL SUSAN! BUT A MAN IN LOVE IS SOMETIMES BLIND... DOESN'T QUESTION THE LOVE OF A YOUNG GORGEOUS WIFE! YES SHE TOO WAS IN LOVE... BUT NOT WITH HER HUSBAND!



[LATER THAT NIGHT... THE EXPEDITION IS OUR ANSWER DARLING... AFTER ALL THE DESERT IS A WILD PLACE... ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN OUT THERE!]



OH, NOW I UNDERSTAND! THANKS TO THESBA EVERYTHING IS GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT!

YES, EVERYTHING! ALL THESE YEARS OF WAITING, OF SECRET MEETINGS WILL SOON BE OVER!



YES, EVERYTHING WAS GOING TO BE ALRIGHT! EVERYTHING WAS ALRIGHT!



THAT'S THE WAY IT WAS, THE ETERNAL TRIANGLE... AND A MURDER BEING PLOTTED! BUT TO CONTINUE, AT THE END OF THE WEEK THE EXPEDITION SAILED AND IN DUE TIME ARRIVED IN EGYPT!



THE SMALL SAFARI REACHED THEIR DESTINATION AT THE BASE OF THE PYRAMID AND ESTABLISHED THEIR CAMP...

THIS SEEMED LIKE A DREAM ONCE... BUT HERE WE ARE! AND I KNOW JUST WHERE WE'LL FIND THAT MISSING TOMB... I'VE FINALLY FOUND THE CLUE I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR!

DON'T BE TOO SURE, DOCTOR... YOU'VE BEEN TRYING TO FIND THESBA'S TOMB FOR YEARS WITHOUT SUCCESS!



YES, ABOUT, WHAT IS IT?

I WANT TO WARN YOU AND YOUR PARTY NOT TO STRAY TOO FAR FROM THE CAMP! DESERT BANDITS HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO RAID ON SMALL EXPEDITIONS SUCH AS THIS!



WELL, I'M TURNING IN... I ADVISE YOU TO DO THE SAME! WE'VE GOT A REAL BUSY DAY TOMORROW! THAT'S WHEN WE UNVEIL THE MISSING THESBA!



I'LL BE RIGHT IN DEAR! IT'S TOO NICE A NIGHT TO GO TO SLEEP SO EARLY!

IT WAS TOO NICE A NIGHT TO TURN IN SO EARLY... ALSO TO THINK OF A LONG DEAD QUEEN! IN SHORT, IT WAS A NIGHT MADE ONLY FOR LOVE!





**B**UT THE NIGHT MUST PASS AND WITH THE DAWN THE EXPEDITION CAME TO LIFE! THIS WAS HYDEN'S DAY...THE DAY HE WAS TO MEET HIS SECOND LOVE... QUEEN THESBA!



**E**ARLY THE NEXT MORNING...

BUT THIS IS WHERE WE'VE BEGUN EVERY EXPEDITION... AND YOU'VE NEVER FOUND HER!

TRUE, BUT I FOUND SOME NEW PAPERS DISCUSSING THE QUEEN, THEY MENTION A HIDDEN DOOR... AND BEHIND THAT DOOR IS WHERE WE'LL FIND HER!



DON'T BE AFRAID DARLING... THERE IS NOTHING HERE THAT CAN HARM YOU, AND SOON YOU'LL SEE HER! MY **OTHER DREAM GIRL!**



**D**EEPER INTO THE BOWELS OF THE PYRAMID THE TRIO WORKED THEMSELVES! ALONG DARK DESOLATE CORRIDORS ON WHOSE WALLS PLAYED THE SHADOWS OF THOUSANDS OF YEARS, UNTIL FINALLY...

THE PAPER WAS RIGHT! THIS IS THE ENTRANCE JUST AS IT WAS DESCRIBED! **WE'VE FOUND IT! THE TOMB OF THESBA!**

BUT HOW DO WE GET INSIDE! WE CAN'T SQUEEZE THROUGH THAT HOLE!



PERHAPS THAT'S WHY NOBODY HAS FOUND HER TOMB ALL THESE CENTURIES! BUT THE LEGEND ALSO TOLD ME THE SECRET OF HOW TO GET **INSIDE...** WATCH!



**H**YDEN PULLED DOWN ON THE HIDDEN LEVER AND FOR A MOMENT THERE WAS SILENCE, THEN THERE WAS THE CREAKING AND GROANING OF ANCIENT MACHINERY AND THE SMALL PORTAL OPENED WIDER... WIDER... WIDER! THE TWO MEN AND THE WOMAN STEPPED INSIDE THE CHAMBER AND AT ONCE THEY REALIZED THEY WERE... INSIDE THE LONG LOST TOMB OF **THESBA!**





YES... I'M POSITIVE NOW... WE'VE DONE IT... **THE SARCOPHAGUS OF THESBA!** I'VE FOUND HER AT LAST! THE BEAUTIFUL EGYPTIAN QUEEN!

OPEN THE CASKET! I'VE GOT TO SEE WHAT SHE LOOKS LIKE!



READY... ONE...

NO! WE CAN'T OPEN IT YET! I FORGOT TO BRING THE FORMALDEHYDE DOWN INTO THE TOMB! IF WE OPEN THE CASKET NOW THE AIR MIGHT CAUSE HER **BODY TO CRUMBLE** TO DUST! WE'LL HAVE TO GO BACK TO THE SURFACE TO GET IT!



WELL, IT'S TOO LATE TO GO BACK NOW! SHE'LL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL TOMORROW FOR HER COMING OUT PARTY! BUT WE'VE WAITED THIS LONG WE CAN WAIT A WHILE LONGER, CAN'T WE DARLING?

YES... ER... SURE WE CAN!

**NOW HYDEN'S LIFE WAS COMPLETE!** AT LONG LAST HE HAD HIS TWO LOVES! BUT WITH THESBA HE HAD NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT... SHE COULDN'T MOVE VERY WELL COULD SHE? BUT SUSAN WAS... ANOTHER MATTER! SHE WAS WARM, VIBRANT, VERY MUCH ALIVE... AND IN LOVE! BUT NOT WITH HYDEN!

LATER THAT NIGHT...

WHEN ARE WE GOING TO GET **RID OF HIM?** NOW THAT HE'S FOUND THE TOMB WE'LL BE LEAVING HERE SOON!

DON'T WORRY BABY! I'VE GOT IT ALL FIGURED OUT! **TOMORROW'S THE DAY!**



TOMORROW? HOW? WHAT?

**DOWN IN THAT TOMB!** NOBODY BUT THE THREE OF US KNOWS ITS LOCATION! IT'LL TAKE CENTURIES FOR SOMEBODY TO DISCOVER HOW TO OPEN IT... AND THEN IT WON'T MATTER!



WITH THAT SETTLED THE TWO LOVERS HAD OTHER THINGS TO OCCUPY THEIR MINDS... EACH OTHER...



**BUT SOMEBODY ELSE WAS INTERESTED IN THE TWO LOVERS... SOMEBODY WHOSE WORLD CAME TUMBLING DOWN AROUND HIS EARS!**





A SHORT TIME LATER...

I'LL GO BACK FIRST...NO SENSE IN TAKING A CHANCE ON THE OLD FOOL SEEING US!

AND THIS WILL BE THE **LAST TIME** I HAVE TO GO BACK TO HIM...AND TO THINK THAT HE BELIEVES I LOVE HIM!



LLOYD QUICKLY RETURNED TO HIS TENT AND SETTLED DOWN FOR THE NIGHT...HIS LAST...ALONE!

TOMORROW SHE'LL BE MINE...MINE ALONE! AND THEN...WHAT WAS THAT? AWW...PROBABLY ONE OF THOSE HYENAS...THIS WAITING IS GETTING ME DOWN!

**AARGHHHH!**



LLOYD SLEPT LIKE A LOG THAT NIGHT... HIS TROUBLES WERE OVER...OR ALMOST!

HAVE YOU SEEN SUSAN, LLOYD? SHE'S BEEN **MISSING** ALL MORNING... NOBODY'S SEEN HER AROUND THE CAMP!

MAYBE SHE WENT FOR A STROLL OUT INTO THE DESERT! GET SOME OF THE NATIVES, WE'LL START A SEARCH FOR HER!



EAGERLY THEY SEARCHED THE DESERT, BUT ALL THEY FOUND WAS A SMALL SPLOTCH OF BLOOD...THE ONLY CLUE TO THE MISSING GIRL!

IT MUST HAVE BEEN THOSE DESERT BANDITS THAT WE WERE WARNED ABOUT!

I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT! AND TO THINK THAT ONLY LAST NIGHT...WE WERE ALL TOGETHER!



FOR WEEKS THE TWO MEN HUNTED THE DESERT FOR THEIR BELOVED SUSAN BUT FOUND NOTHING! **NOT A TRACE!** FINALLY DR. HYDEN RETURNED TO THE TOMB OF THESBA... AT LEAST HE HAD ANOTHER LOVE TO KEEP HIM GOING!



CAREFUL WITH THAT SARCOPHAGUS! IF IT HAS A LONG WAY TO GO AND I DON'T WANT ANYTHING TO HAPPEN TO IT!

IF IT WASN'T FOR THAT DEAD QUEEN SUSAN WOULD STILL BE ALIVE!



FINALLY THE CASKET WAS BROUGHT TO THE SURFACE AND IT WAS HERE THAT LLOYD MADE HIS DECISION... A DECISION TO STAY IN THE DESERT AND LOOK FOR HIS LOST TRUE LOVE!

I'VE GOT TO DO IT, DOCTOR...IF SHE'S ANYWHERE IN THE DESERT I'LL FIND HER!

AS YOU SAY, MY BOY! BUT I'M **CONVINCED SHE'S DEAD!** THAT'S WHY I'M GOING BACK TO CIVILIZATION...AND TAKING THESBA WITH ME!





LOYD SPENT MONTHS IN THE BURNING DESERT SEARCHING FOR HIS TRUE LOVE BUT NEVER FOUND HER. IT WAS AS IF THE VERY SANDS HAD COVERED HER UP. FINALLY HE TOO RETURNED TO CIVILIZATION, BUT AS WITH THE CASE WITH ALL MEN WHEN THEY HAVE NOTHING TO LIVE FOR, HE FOUND HIMSELF GOING DOWN... DOWN... DOWN ON THE SLIDING POND OF SOCIETY...

SUSAN... SUSAN... OH, MY SUSAN... DEAD... DEAD... DEAD!



THEN FROM SOMEWHERE DEEP INSIDE OF HIM THE SPARK OF REVENGE IGNITED ITSELF IF HE COULDN'T FIND HIS TRUE LOVE, HE WOULD AT LEAST SEEK VENGEANCE!

IT'S THAT **THESBA'S FAULT** SHE'S DEAD! I'LL **DESTROY HER** LIKE SHE DESTROYED SUSAN... IT'S THE ONLY WAY!!



NOBODY HERE AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT... SHOULD BE EASY... THERE SHE IS... WAITING FOR ME... JUST LIKE SUSAN USED TO WAIT FOR ME...



NOBODY HERE BUT YOU AND ME... AND SOON YOU'LL JUST BE A **HANDFULL OF DUST** SPREAD ON THE FLOOR!



EAGERLY HE LIFTED THE LID FROM THE SARCO-PHAGUS AND THEN QUICKLY RIPPED THE WRAPPINGS FROM THE MUMMY INSIDE... A HORRID STENCH STUNG HIS NOSTRILS AND WHEN HE WAS FINISHED HE KNEW WHY...

THAT SMELL... NO! NO! NO!



YES, A MAN IN LOVE WILL DO ANYTHING! AND DR. HYDEN WAS IN LOVE WITH TWO WOMEN... AND DETERMINED TO KEEP THEM BOTH!

**THE END**





# RAT-TRAP

SURE IT'S LIKE A RAT-TRAP / AND THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO...  
ONE COURSE LEFT TO YOU...

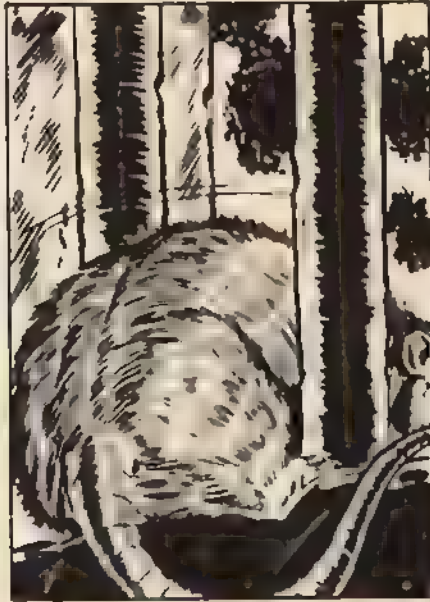




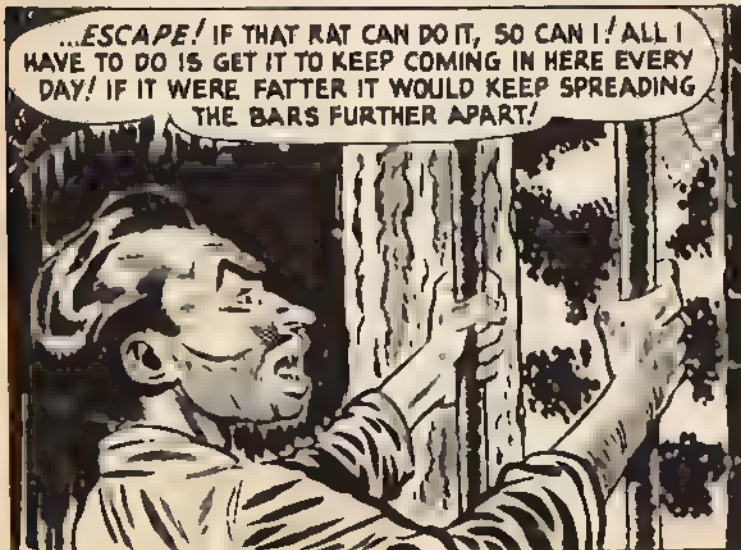
**BUT AT LEAST YOU'RE NOT ALONE! AT LEAST YOU HAVE COMPANY...EVEN IF IT'S NOT TO YOUR CHOOSING!**



**FINISHED WITH HIS MEAL, THE RAT HAD JUST ONE THOUGHT IN MIND... *ESCAPE!***



**BUT THE RAT HAD SERVED ITS PURPOSE! IT HAD PLANTED THE SEED OF AN IDEA... AN IDEA WHICH WOULD LEAD TO...**

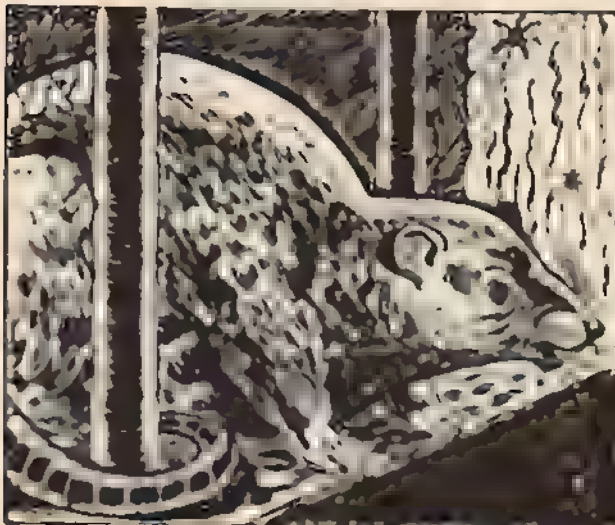




AND SO THE PRISONER PUT HIS PLAN INTO OPERATION AND THE SCAVENGER, URGED ON BY THE PANGS OF HUNGER, RESPONDED



HAVING EATEN ITS FILL, THE RAT TURNED TO LOOK BACK AT ITS BENEFACITOR - NEITHER ONE REALIZING THE IMPORTANT ROLE THEY WERE TO PLAY IN EACH OTHER'S LIVES!



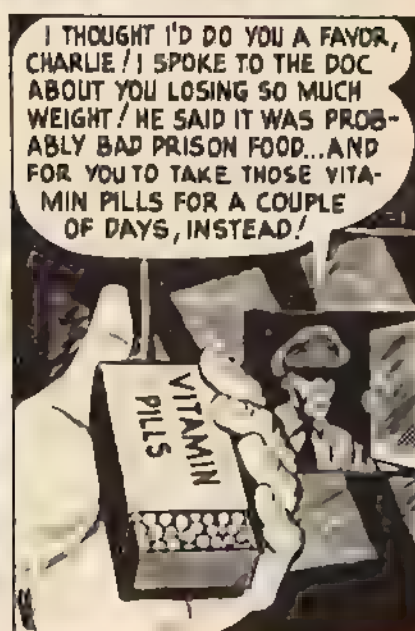
AND THE DAYS PASSED AND TURNED INTO WEEKS, AND THE WEEKS PASSED AND TURNED INTO MONTHS AND THE BARS SPREAD AND SPREAD AND SPREAD!





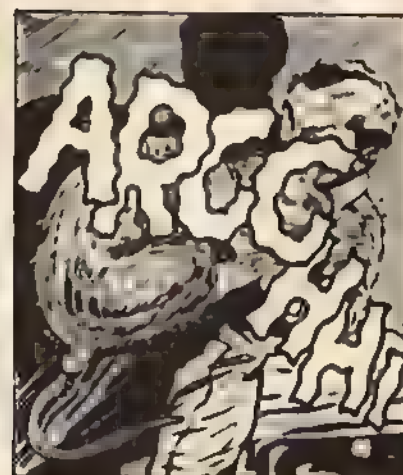
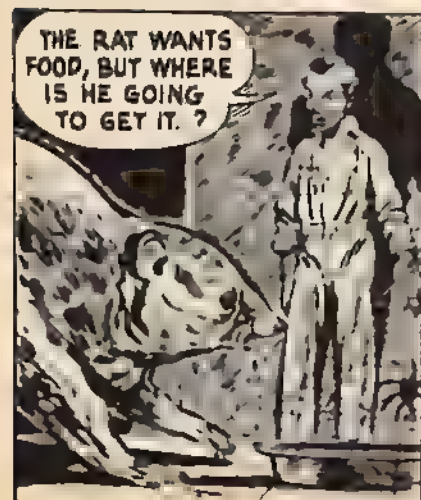


BUT THE GUARD WAS IN NO HURRY... BESIDES, HE HAD MANY HUNGRY MOUTHS TO FEED!



THE VITAMIN PILLS WERE ALL-RIGHT FOR CHARLIE, BUT WHAT WAS THE HUNGRY FAT RAT TO EAT.

YOU CAN'T STOP A HUNGRY CRAZY RAT! YOU SPOILED HIM, CHARLIE... BETTER FIND SOME FOOD FOR THE FAT RAT BEFORE HE...



NEVER MIND, CHARLIE... HE'S FOUND THE ONLY PIECE OF FOOD LEFT IN THE RAT-TRAP...

YOU!

THE END



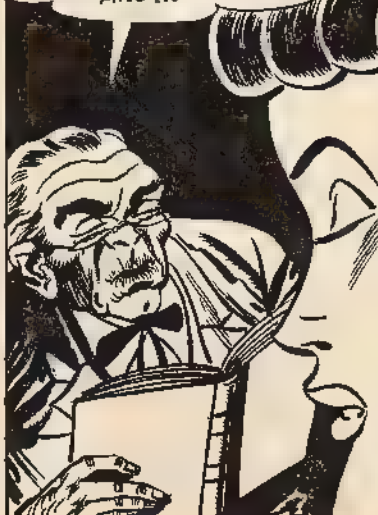
PROFESSOR PIERRE CARON FOUND BEAUTY... YOUTHFUL BEAUTY... SENSITIVE BEAUTY... SOMEONE SO INTELLIGENTLY RARE THAT TO BE NEAR HER WAS A THOUSAND PLEASURES... TO BE AWAY FROM HER, TEN TIMES AS MANY DEATHS. LYDIA LOVED HIS BRILLIANCE ... BUT SHE WAS REVOLTED BY HIS AGING, WRINKLED, DISSIPATING BODY... REVOLTED TO THE POINT OF ENDING THEIR RELATIONSHIP... AND THE PROFESSOR, HURT AND DISPARAGED AT THE INEVITABLE LOSS OF HIS LOVE, RESOLVED TO FIND HIMSELF A NEW BODY... HIS BRAIN AND A NEW BODY... THE BRAIN SHE LOVED **ALIVE** ... BUT HIS OWN BODY IN ...

# ETERNAL DEATH



HE NEVER LOOKED AT WOMEN... HE NEVER HAD THE TIME... BUT WHEN HE HEARD HER SOFT, ALMOST WHISPERING VOICE IN THE LABORATORY WHERE THEY WORKED... HE LOOKED UP FROM HIS DRAWINGS AND DIAGRAMS... STARED AT HER WITH AN OPEN DRY MOUTH! HER NAME WAS LYDIA MARKHAM... AND AS HE WARMED UP THEIR FRIENDSHIP THEY BEGAN TO SPEND MORE TIME TOGETHER... THOSE EVENINGS WERE BEAUTIFUL! HE READ POETRY TO HER WHILE LISTENING TO A SOFT MELODIC SYMPHONY!

SHALL I COMPARE THEE TO A SUMMER DAY? THY EYES, THY LIPS, THY HAIR! MY HEART CRIES ITS LOVE AND...

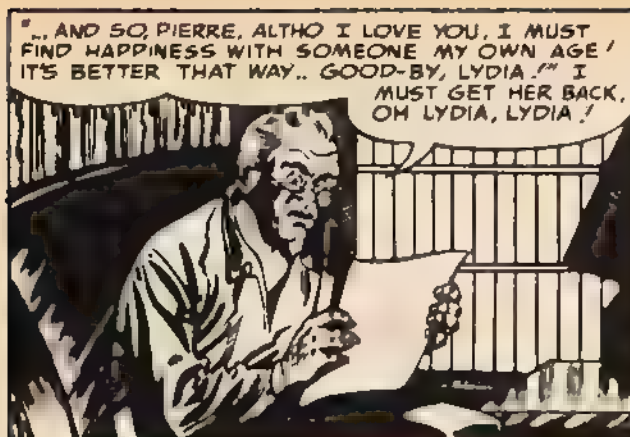


...THEY WERE HEAVENLY EVENINGS, BUT HE'D BECOME OVERWHELMED BY THE MOMENT, CARRIED AWAY BY HIS UNCONTROLLABLE PRIMITIVE EMOTIONS ... HE WANTED TO RELEASE SEVENTY-TWO LONELY YEARS OF STORED UP ENERGY AND PASSION! HE HAD TO HOLD HER, CRUSH HER BODY AGAINST HIS, KISS HER, KISS HER, **KISS HER...** BUT ALTHO SHE LOVED HIS BRILLIANT MIND, SHE WANTED THE YOUTHFUL STRENGTH OF A YOUNG MAN'S BODY!

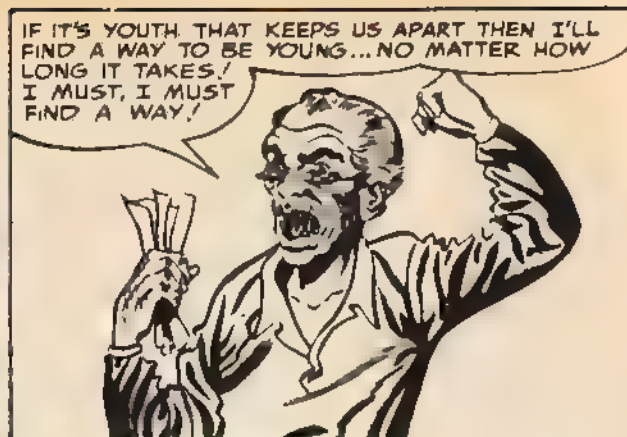
LYDIA ... I... I LOVE YOU... I NEED YOU...



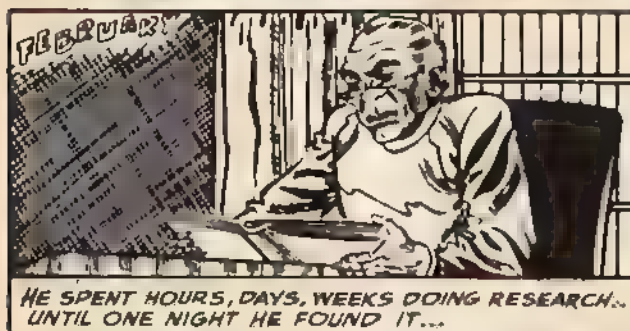




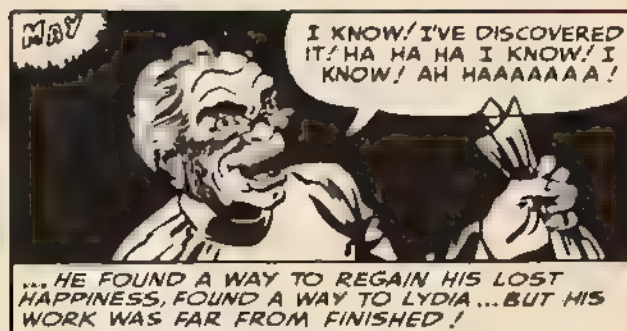
"... AND SO, PIERRE, ALTHO I LOVE YOU, I MUST FIND HAPPINESS WITH SOMEONE MY OWN AGE! IT'S BETTER THAT WAY... GOOD-BY, LYDIA." I MUST GET HER BACK, OH LYDIA, LYDIA!



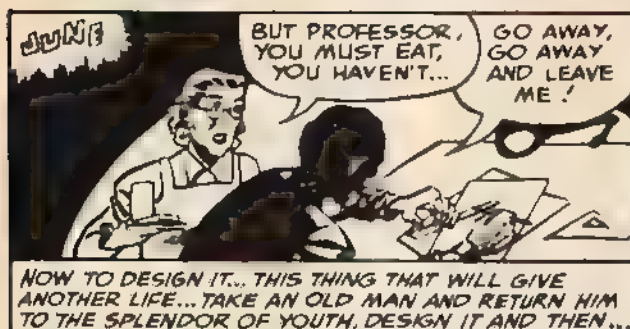
IF IT'S YOUTH THAT KEEPS US APART THEN I'LL FIND A WAY TO BE YOUNG... NO MATTER HOW LONG IT TAKES! I MUST, I MUST FIND A WAY!



HE SPENT HOURS, DAYS, WEEKS DOING RESEARCH... UNTIL ONE NIGHT HE FOUND IT...



... HE FOUND A WAY TO REGAIN HIS LOST HAPPINESS, FOUND A WAY TO LYDIA... BUT HIS WORK WAS FAR FROM FINISHED!



HOW TO DESIGN IT... THIS THING THAT WILL GIVE ANOTHER LIFE... TAKE AN OLD MAN AND RETURN HIM TO THE SPLENDOR OF YOUTH, DESIGN IT AND THEN...



... BUILD IT. BUILD AN ESCAPE FROM AGE... FROM DEATH... FROM LIFE!

HE HAD BEEN AWAY FROM HIS FRIENDS FOR A LONG TIME... BUT NOW HE NEEDED THE HELP OF HIS BEST FRIEND AND ASSOCIATE... HE NEEDED THE HELP OF A MAN HE COULD TRUST AND WHO HE COULD RELY ON... BECAUSE NOW THE MOMENT WAS GROWING CLOSER! THE SUM TOTAL OF ALL THE MONTHS OF RESEARCH, PLANNING, DESIGNING, ANXIETIES, FEARS AND FRUSTRATIONS WOULD BE REALIZED IN THE COMING MOMENTS... DECISIVE MOMENTS THAT WILL EMBODY THE FATE AND HOPES OF A MAN AND HIS IDEALS!

HE BROUGHT FREDERICK INTO THE LABORATORY AND EXPLAINED JUST WHAT HE'D BEEN DOING... TECHNICALITIES, EQUATION, THEORIES, OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES, AND THEN...



COME IN, FREDERICK, COME IN! I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU!

PIERRE, YOU LOOK TERRIBLE... WHY DIDN'T YOU LET ME COME SOONER? ALL THAT EQUIPMENT YOU TOOK FROM THE LABORATORY... WHAT'S GOING ON?



YOU'RE MAD! YOU CAN'T DO THAT! WHY IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!

FREDERICK, WHAT I AM ABOUT TO TELL YOU IS ASTOUNDING, BUT MY CALCULATION PROVE IT TO BE TRUE... I HAVE FOUND A WAY TO TRANSFORM MY BODY INTO THAT OF A YOUNG MAN'S FORM AND STILL KEEP MY BRAIN!



HA HA HA, YOU THINK NOT, EH? REMEMBER THAT MAGNETO WE DEVELOPED? LAST YEAR? THAT SAME MAGNETO WILL MATERIALIZE ANY SPIRIT RECALLED FROM THE DEAD! I HAVE MADE IT RADIATE ELECTRONS WHICH GIVES LIFE TO DEATH! IT WILL WORK... IT MUST!



BUT WHY PIERRE, WHY?

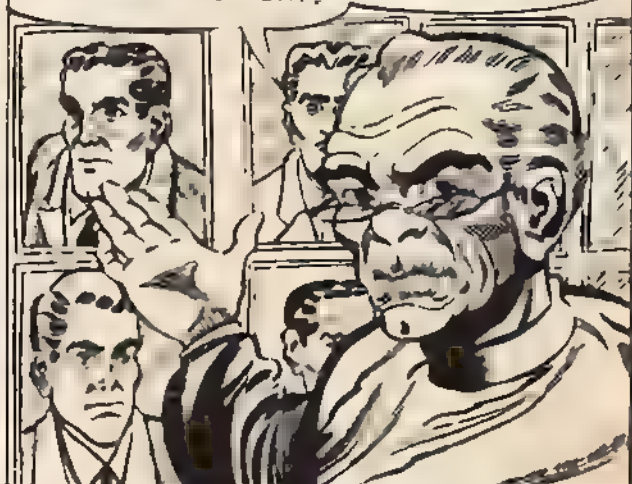
FOR SCIENCE, FOR SCIENCE OF COURSE! BUT YOU MUST HELP ME, FREDERICK! YOU MUST FIND A MEDIUM WHO GIVES SEANCES, NOT A FRAUD, BUT A MAN WHO CAN RECALL THE DEAD... FOR WE MUST BOMBARD A SPIRIT WITH ELECTRONS IN ORDER TO GIVE IT LIFE... COME, I WILL SHOW YOU THE BODY I HAVE CHOSEN!



I SPENT DAYS AT THE CITY MORGUE LOOKING UP FATAL ACCIDENT CASE HISTORIES, AND THESE ARE THE YOUNG MEN WHO WERE IN GOOD HEALTH BEFORE THEY DIED, FROM WHAT I HAVE BEEN TOLD BY THEIR SURVIVERS!



THIS IS THE YOUTH I'LL USE! HE WAS KILLED IN AN AUTO ACCIDENT! GO NOW, FREDERICK! FIND THE MEDIUM AND BRING HIM WITH YOU A WEEK FROM TONIGHT!



FREDERICK FOUND THE MEDIUM... A MAN PURPORTED TO HAVE CONJURED UP SPIRITS VISIBLE TO THE HUMAN EYE... A MAN WHOSE ABILITIES WOULD NOW TO BE PUT TO A SCIENTIFIC TEST... THE MAN WHO HELD THE NEW LIFE OF PROFESSOR PIERRE CARON IN HIS POWERS OVER THE SUPERNATURAL!

PIERRE, THIS IS THE DISTINGUISHED MONSIEUR MAYNARD... MONSIEUR, THIS IS MY OLD FRIEND PROFESSOR PIERRE CARON!

BONSOIR MONSIEUR, I TRUST THAT YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO DO?

AH OUI, PROFESSEUR, OUI... I DO NOT BELIEVE IT... BUT WE'LL TRY... EH BIEN!

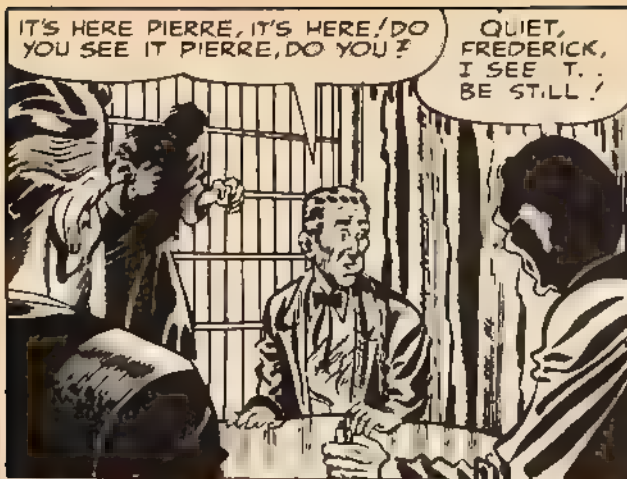


HERE IT IS... NOW... NOW OR NEVER... MONTHS OF WORK FOR AN UNTESTED, UNTRIED RESULT... THE POINT OF NO RETURN... CARRIED FORWARD BY A MOMENTUM OF DESIRE, OF CRAVING, OF LOVE! EVERYTHING IS READY AND THE MOMENT IS NOW!

CONCENTRATE PROFESSOR, CONCENTRATE ON THE IMAGE OF THE ONE YOU WISH TO SEE! LOOK FOR THE IMAGE IN A DEEP DEEP WELL... A BOTTOMLESS WELL! LOOK FOR HIM... LOOK FOR HIM!







IT'S HERE PIERRE, IT'S HERE! DO YOU SEE IT PIERRE, DO YOU?

QUIET, FREDERICK, I SEE T... BE STILL!

THE MEDIUM DID HIS WORK... THE SPIRIT OF THE YOUNG MAN WAS RECALLED FROM THE INFINITE... RECALLED FROM SOME SPHERE, SOME VOID UNIMAGINABLE TO MAN... ANSWERING THE DEMANDS OF SUPERNATURAL CONCENTRATION!



CLICK

HUMMMMMMMMM!

THE SWITCH IS THROWN... THE MACHINE HAS CAPTURED THE SPIRIT NOW, SHAPING IT... DRAWING IT NEARER... BOMBARDING IT WITH LIFE GIVING ELECTRONS!



IT'S WORKING... LOOK AT IT... IT'S WORKING...



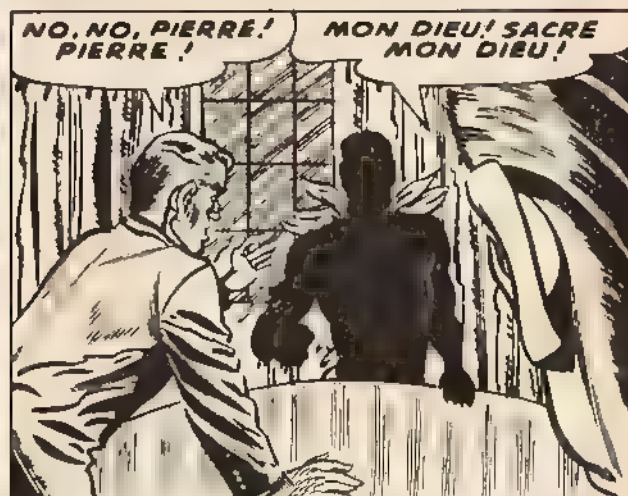
...IT'S COMING CLOSER... COMING TOWARDS THE PROFESSOR...



...WHY LOOK... IT LOOKS ALIVE... IT LOOKS REAL... IT SEEMS AS THO...



...IT'S GOING INTO THE PROFESSOR... IT'S BECOMING PART OF HIM... PART BY PART AN OLD HEAD IS BEING REPLACED BY A YOUNGER ONE, AN OLD BODY REPLACED BY A YOUTHFUL TORSO, OLD WEAK ARMS AND HANDS BECOMING FIRM AND STRONG... IT SEEMS ALMOST AS IF IT HAS...

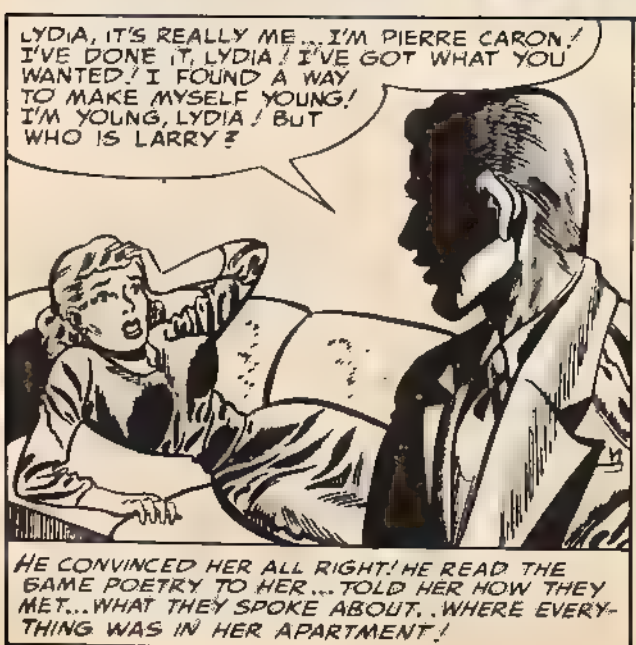
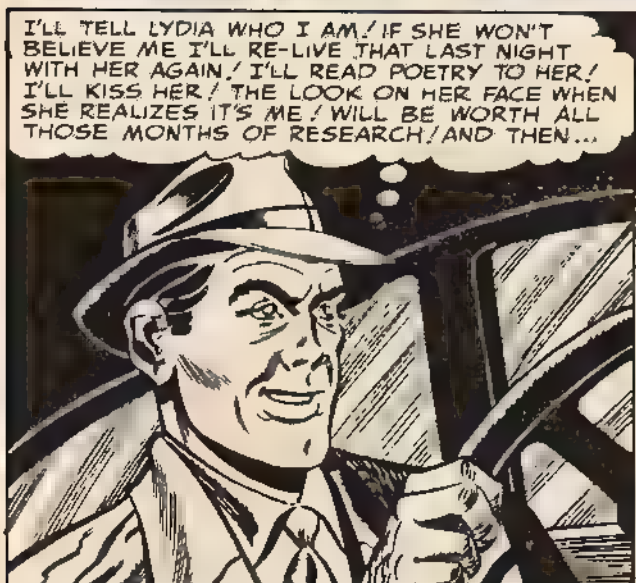
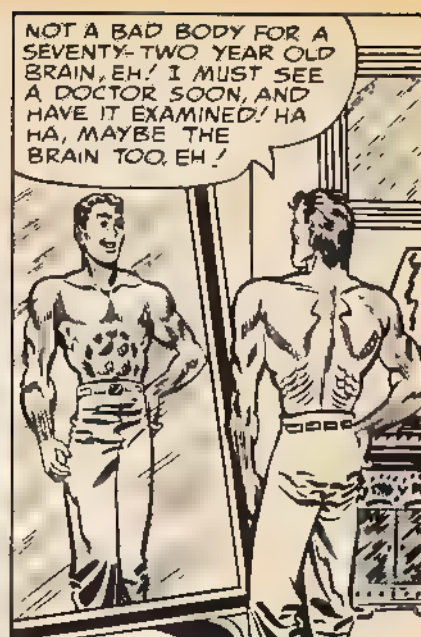
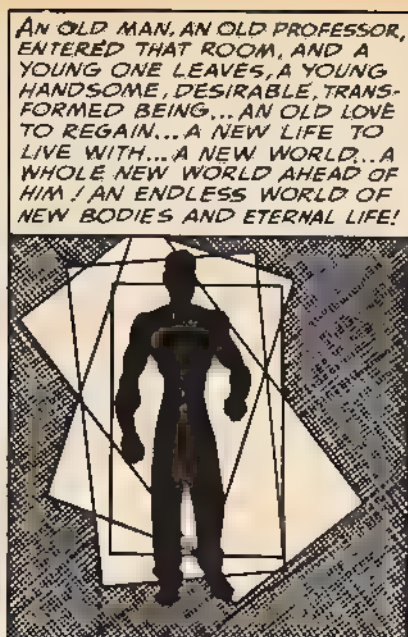


NO, NO, PIERRE! PIERRE!

MON DIEU! SACRE MON DIEU!

IT HAS BECOME THE PROFESSOR... THE SPIRIT IS GONE, THE OLD DECREPIT PROF IS GONE... THERE ONLY REMAINS THIS YOUNG HANDSOME YOUTH WHERE ONCE SAT AN OLD WRINKLED MAN!







LIKE A MAN  
WITH A  
HYPODERMIC  
FULL OF  
LIFE  
RETAINING  
LIQUID  
STUCK IN  
HIS ARM...  
BUT NO  
STRENGTH  
LEFT TO  
DRIVE THE  
PLUNGER  
HOME... TO  
BE SO CLOSE  
...SO NEAR  
AND YET SO  
FAR... AN  
OLD BRAIN  
WITH A YOUNG  
AILING BODY  
...A BODY  
THAT COULD  
DROP TO A  
PAINFUL  
INSTANTANEOUS  
DEATH!

IT'S GOT A BAD HEART!  
I'LL HAVE TO GO BACK  
AND GET MY OLD SELF!  
I'LL HAVE TO GET MAYNARD!  
I'LL HAVE TO... BEFORE  
IT DIES!

YOU MUSTN'T  
EXCITE  
YOURSELF  
PIERRE!  
IT... T...  
YOU, YOU  
CAN'T TAKE  
THE STRAIN!

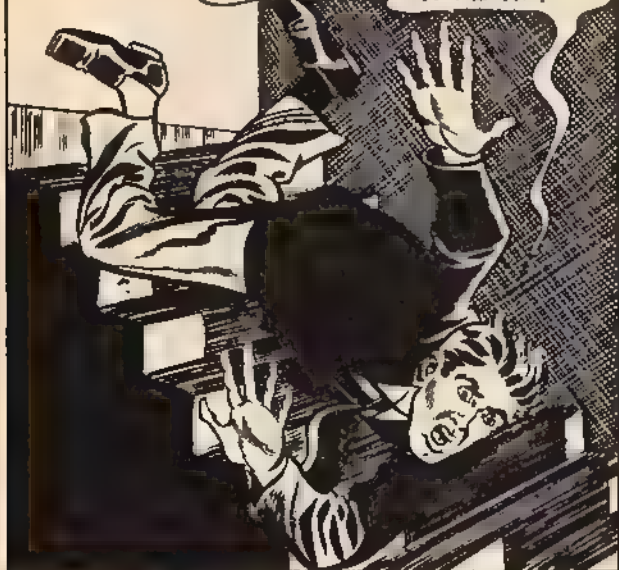


PIERRE, GO  
SLOWLY...  
SLOWLY,  
PIERRE!

I MUST HURRY! I'VE  
GOT TO FIND HIM!

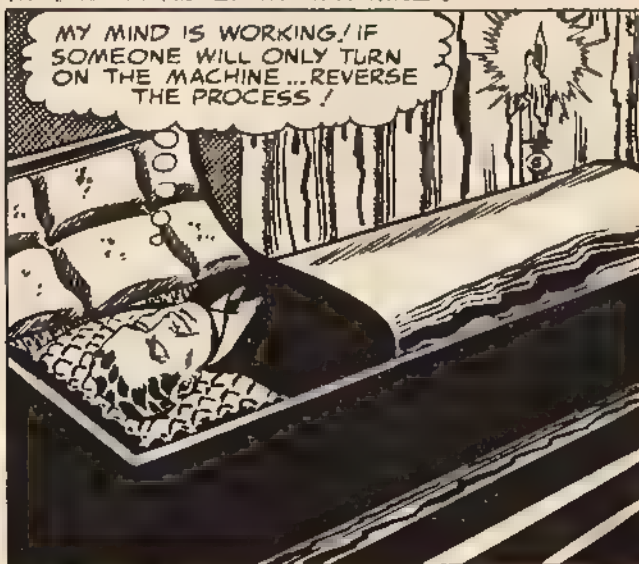


AHHHHRRRRRRGGGG!  
MY HEART!



HE LIES IN HIS COFFIN, HIS BODY DEAD... HIS MIND  
...ALIVE! THERE IS NO WAY OF CONTACTING THE  
LIVING WORLD... NO WAY OF TELLING THEM THAT  
THEY MUST RESET THE MACHINE!

MY MIND IS WORKING! IF  
SOMEONE WILL ONLY TURN  
ON THE MACHINE... REVERSE  
THE PROCESS!



A LIVING MIND... THINKING.. THINKING.. THINKING...

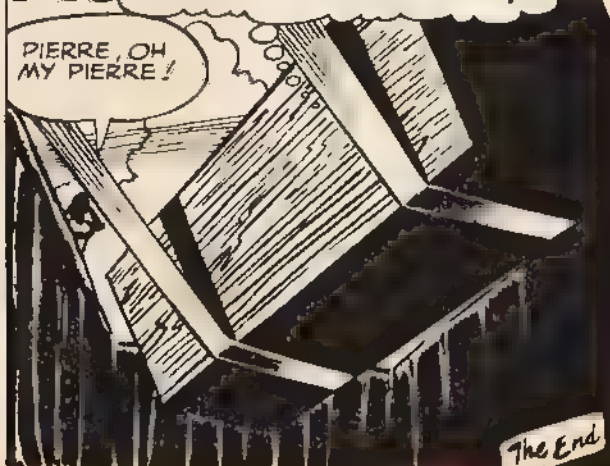
FREDERICK WILL TURN IT ON! HA HAAA, HE  
WILL, HE'LL WANT TO EXPERIMENT! HE WILL!  
HA HAAA! HE HAS TO... **HE MUST, HE MUST...**  
I'M GOING MAD, HA HAAAA!



...AND THE PROFESSOR WAITS, AND HIS MIND  
GOES ON AND ON... ETERNALLY IN DEATH!

WHEN? WHEN WILL THEY TURN IT ON? SHALL  
I COMPARE THEE TO A SUMMER'S DREAM?  
THY UPS... **WHEN? WHEN?**

PIERRE, OH  
MY PIERRE!

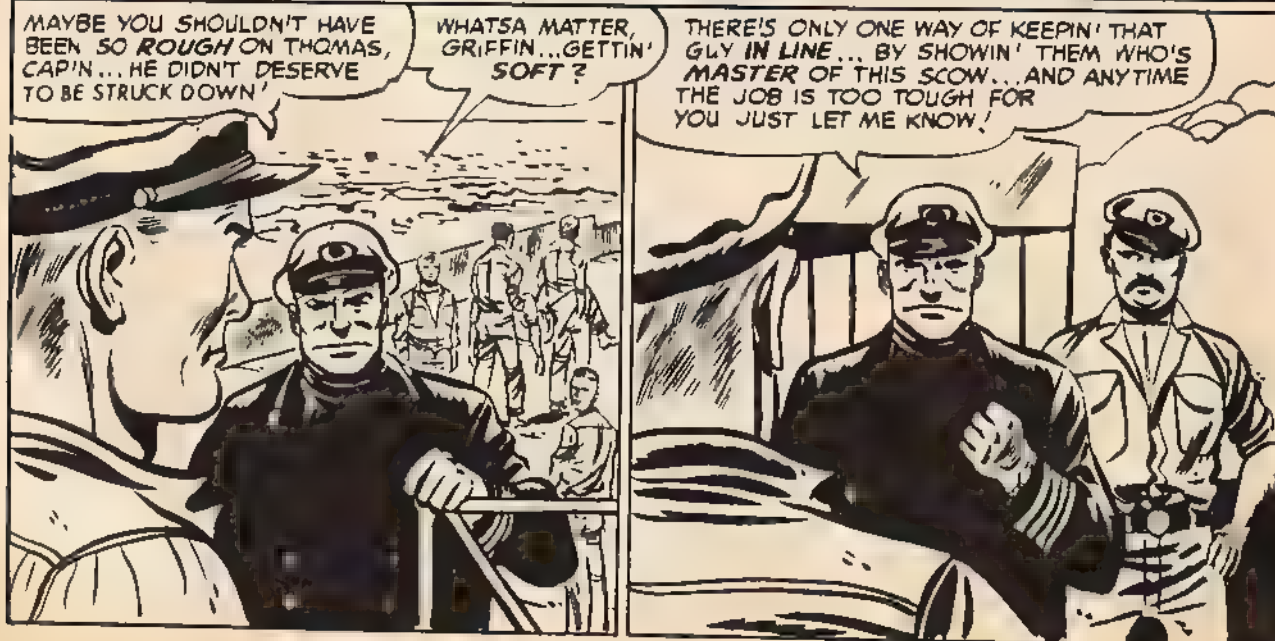


The End



THE OFFICERS OF THE SHIP, SOUTHERN STAR WERE A ROUGH LOT... AND THEY KEPT THE CREW IN LINE HOWEVER THEY COULD... THEY HAD LITTLE RESPECT FOR THE MEN WHO KEPT THE CRAFT AFLOAT... LOOK ON THEM AS ...

# LOW LIFE!





HE WENT TO HIS CABIN AFTER THAT... HAD TO BE ALONE... COULDN'T LET THE TWO MATES SEE HIS WHITE FACE... FOR IN REALITY THE CAPTAIN WAS A COWARD!

GOTTA HAVE A DRINK!



AND THEN HIS FACE REALLY TURNED WHITE AS HE STARED AT THE EMPTY DRAWER IN HIS DESK...

IT'S GONE... MISSING!



FRANTICALLY HE SEARCHED HIS CABIN... IT HAD TO BE SOMEPLACE... IT JUST HAD TO BE!

WHERE IS IT?  
WHERE IS IT?



AND FINALLY THERE WASN'T ANY OTHER PLACE TO LOOK FOR IT... THERE WAS NO DOUBT ABOUT IT... IT WAS GONE!

IT'S **STOLEN**  
... SOMEBODY  
STOLE IT!



IT WAS THEN THAT HE TOLD THEM THE NEWS... NEWS WHICH SENT SHIVERS UP AND DOWN THEIR SPINES...

MY **SECOND GUN IS MISSING!** IT'S BEEN **STOLEN!** ONE OF THE CREW HAS A GUN WITH SIX SHOTS IN IT!

YOU SENT FOR US, CAPTAIN?

YEAH... WHAT'S UP... THE CREW GETTIN' OUT OF HAND AGAIN?

SOMETHING EVEN **WORSE**, THAN THAT!







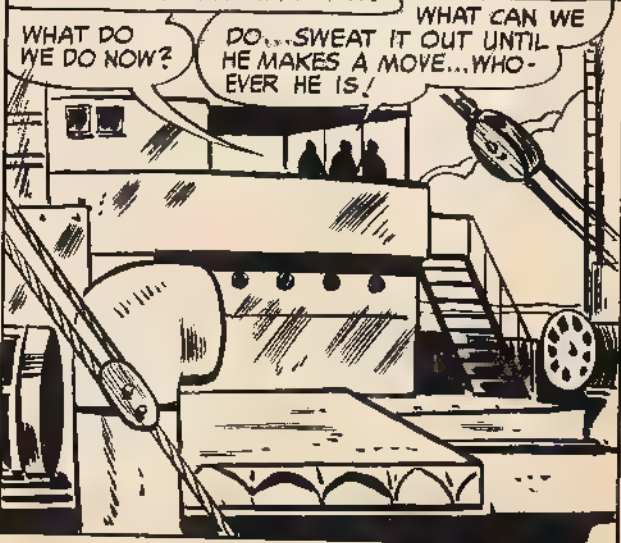
THEY CALLED ALL HANDS ON DECK AND THE SEARCH PROCEEDED...BANKING ON THE FEAR OF THE MEN FOR THEIR OFFICERS...THEY FIGURED THAT THE GUILTY SAILOR WOULD COMMIT HIMSELF...



SILENCE REIGNED ON THE DECK...AND THEY WAITED... BUT NOTHING HAPPENED!



AND THEN THE CREW WAS DISMISSED AND FEAR LIT THE FACES OF THE THREE OFFICERS... FOR THEY THOUGHT THAT SOMEWHERE ON THE VESSEL A KILLER WAITED...





THE FIRST MATE WENT ABOUT HIS DUTIES... AND WONDERED IF HE HAD BEEN TOO HARSH WITH THE MEN...

WHY SHOULD THEY WANT TO KILL ME... I WAS ONLY DOING MY DUTY... THEY UNDERSTAND THAT!



AS DID THE SECOND MATE... FOR THEY BOTH KNEW THAT A GUN IN THE HAND OF A MUTINOUS CREW COULD SET THIS POWDER KEG OFF AT ANY MINUTE...

NOTHING IS MY FAULT... IT'S ALL THE CAPTAIN'S... HE'S TO BLAME... HE'LL GET IT, NOT ME!



BUT FOR THE CAPTAIN IT WAS EVEN WORSE... FOR HE WAS A COWARD... AND EVERY SOUND... EVERY NOISE WAS A POTENTIAL KILLER...

ONE OF THEM'S GOT THE GUN... GOTTA FIND OUT WHO IT IS... BEFORE HE GETS ME!



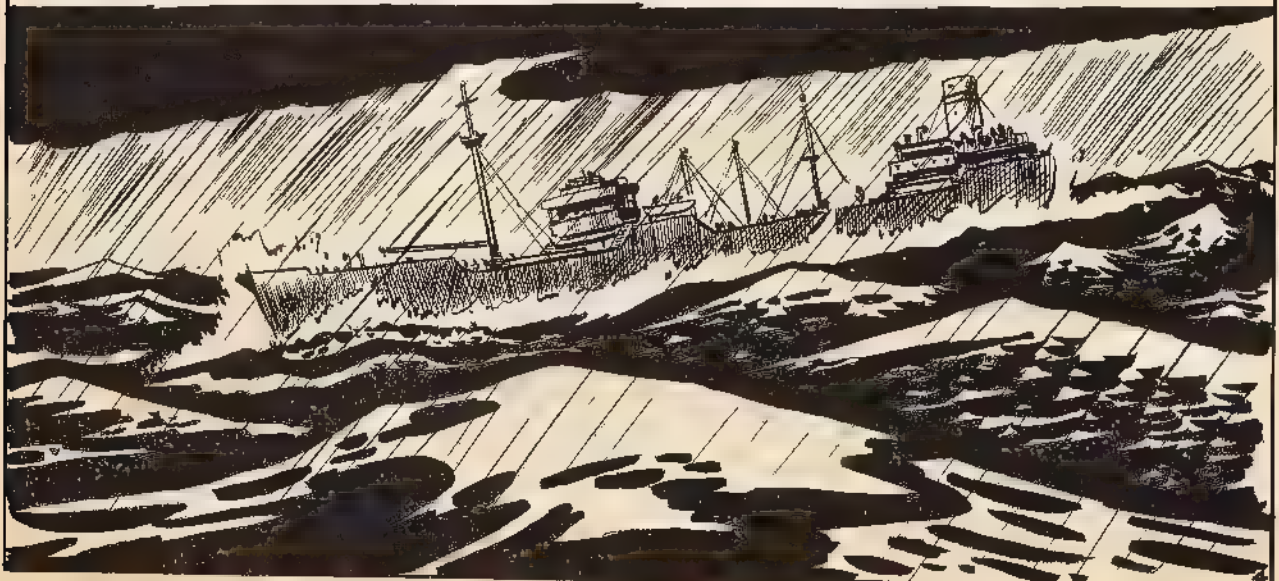
BUT HE COULDN'T KEEP IT UP MUCH LONGER... SOMETHING HAD TO GIVE SOON...

WHAT ARE YOU SNEAKING UP ON ME FOR... AND WHAT ARE YOU DOIN' DOWN HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE?

THE MATE SENT ME DOWN FOR THIS BUCKET... SAYS THE DECK NEEDS CLEANING! AND I WASN'T SNEAKING UP ON YOU, CAP'N... YOU OUGHTA DO SOMETHING FOR YOUR NERVES!



BUT NOW THEY HAD DIFFERENT WORRIES... FOR A SUDDEN TROPICAL STORM HIT THE VESSEL... AND THEY WERE THROWN ABOUT THE RAGING SEAS LIKE A PIECE OF CORK!





THE FIRST MATE FOUGHT HIS WAY THROUGH THE STORM TOWARD THE BRIDGE...TOWARD THE PANICKY SAILORS WHO WERE FIGHTING THE WHEEL...

GOTTA GET THERE...  
GOTTA TURN HER INTO THE WIND!



THERE WAS ONLY ONE THING FOR HIM TO DO...THE SAFETY OF THE SHIP DEPENDED ON IT...

THROW HIM IN THE BRIG  
TILL HE CALMS DOWN!



HALF-CRAZED, HE STARED DOWN AT THE FALLEN FIGURES IN THE WHEELHOUSE... THINKING THAT HE HAD AVENGED THE DEATH OF HIS MATE...

I DID IT! I DID IT!  
IT! NOW THEY KNOW WHO'S MASTER OF THIS SHIP!  
HEH! HEH! HEH!



HE MADE IT TO THE WHEEL...ONLY TO FACE A CRAZED SAILOR...IN ADDITION TO THE BERSERK ELEMENTS...

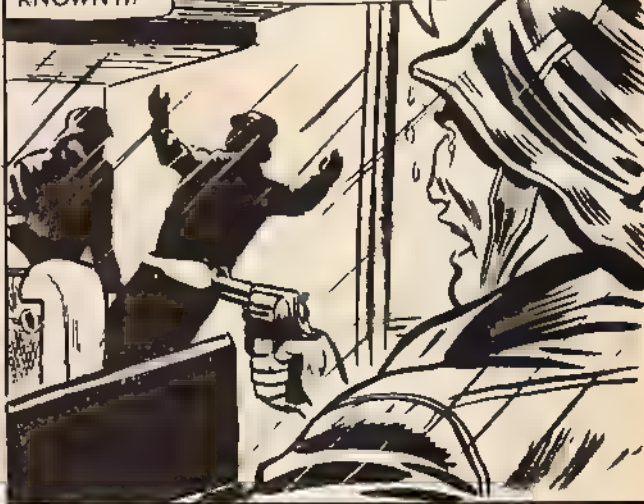
LEGGO OF MY ARM,  
YOU FOOL!... GOTTA  
SWING HER ABOUT!

NO! YOU'RE TRYIN' TO KILL  
US! WE'RE ALL GONNA  
DIE... I WON'T LET YOU  
KILL ME!



IT WAS AT THIS MOMENT THAT THE CAPTAIN APPEARED ON THE BRIDGE...AND SAW A FIGURE IN THE SHADOWS WITH A GUN!

SO YOU'RE THE ONE  
WHO STOLE IT... I SHOULD HAVE  
KNOWN IT!



IT WAS ENOUGH FOR THE OTHER SAILORS... WHO WANTED TO STAY ON THE BRIDGE WITH A CRAZY CAPTAIN?

I'M GETTIN'  
OUTA HERE!

ME TOO! HE'S  
OFF HIS ROCKER!

STOP!  
STOP!





HE FOLLOWED THE CREW DOWN TO THE FO'CASTLE...AND BELLOWED AT THEM OUTSIDE THE LOCKED DOOR...

YOU CAN'T GET AWAY... LEMME IN! LEMME IN!



IN BLIND RAGE AND FURY, THE CRAZED CAPTAIN EMPTIED HIS GUN AT THE LOCKED DOOR...

TRY AND KEEP ME OUT, WILL THEY? I'LL SHOW THEM WHO'S MASTER HERE!



THE SECOND MATE APPEARED THEN... AND SAW THE CRAZED CAPTAIN...WHO WAS NOW UNABLE TO COMMAND THE SHIP!

SORRY, CAP...BUT THE BRIG S THE BEST PLACE FOR YOU!



NOW THE SAFETY OF THE SHIP WAS OF PRIME CONCERN...AND AS THE STORM ABATED...

WITH THE OTHER TWO OFFICERS INCAPACITATED, THE SECOND MATE WAS NOW IN COMMAND!

THERE WON'T BE ANYMORE SHOOTING, SO KEEP YOUR EYE ON THAT WHEEL! STEADY AS SHE GOES!

AYE, AYE, SIR!



SINCE I'M THE CAPTAIN NOW, I'M TAKIN' THE CAPTAIN'S CABIN! GET HIS GEAR OUT OF HERE!

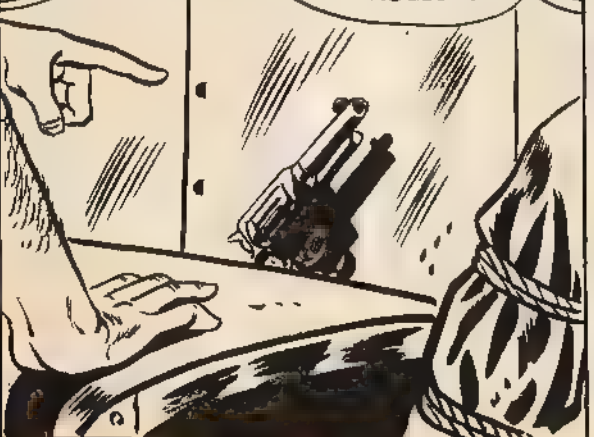
RIGHT YOU ARE, SIR!



AND AS THE SAILOR REMOVED THE CAPTAIN'S GEAR...

LOOK AT THAT, SIR...A GUN WEDGED BACK THERE!

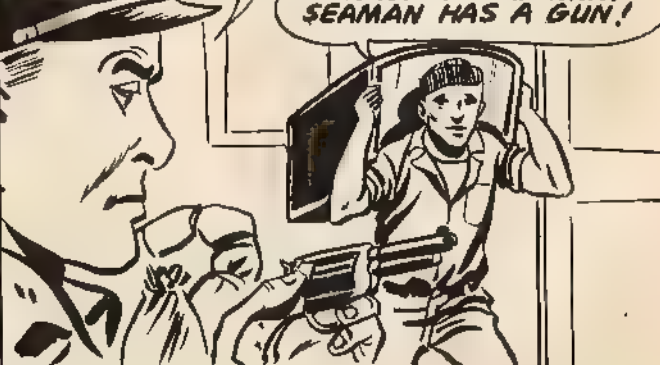
WELL I'LL BE... THAT'S THE GUN THAT WAS MISSING...THE ONE THAT CAUSED ALL THE TROUBLE!



AS HE FINGERED THE GUN A THOUGHT WENT THROUGH THE OFFICER'S MIND...

SAY SAILOR, WHY DIDN'T YOU TAKE THIS GUN JUST NOW...I WOULDN'T HAVE KNOWN THE DIFFERENCE!

WHAT! ME WITH A GUN? THERE ISN'T A MAN IN THIS CREW THAT WANTS A GUN...TOO MUCH CAN HAPPEN WHEN AN ORDINARY SEAMAN HAS A GUN!



MEN OF THE SEA, EH? MAYBE WE WERE TALKING ABOUT THE WRONG MEN!

The End



# VOODOO DOLLS

WHEN A MAN BEGINS TO PLAY WITH DOLLS, MOST PEOPLE WOULD CONSIDER HIM INSANE. BUT INSANITY COMES IN MANY FORMS JUST AS DOLLS COME IN MANY FORMS... THERE ARE RAG DOLLS, PAPER DOLLS, WALKING DOLLS, TALKING DOLLS... BUT KENDALL WINTHROP'S PLAYTHINGS WERE "VOODOO DOLLS!"



HELEN WINTHROP WAS CONVINCED THAT HER HUSBAND WAS SLOWLY BUT SURELY GOING MAD. WHEN HE HAD FIRST BEGUN HIS STUDY OF THE OCCULT AND SUPERNATURAL SHE HAD REGARDED IT AS A WHIM, A PASSING FANCY. BUT NOW SHE REALIZED HE WAS DEADLY SERIOUS..... OBSESSED...

KENDALL, CAN'T YOU STOP WHAT YOU'RE DOING LONG ENOUGH TO HAVE DINNER? FATHER AND I HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU...

LEAVE ME ALONE! DON'T YOU SEE I'M ON THE VERGE OF MY MOST IMPORTANT DISCOVERY!!



HELEN, YOU MUST PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER. THIS OBSESSION OF KENDALL'S WILL PASS. HE'S TOO INTELLIGENT TO LET SUCH NONSENSE OCCUPY HIM FOR TOO LONG...

YOU'RE WRONG, FATHER... YOU CAN SEE WHAT IT'S DONE TO HIM. HE'S LIKE A CRAZY MAN!!





**YES, KENDALL WAS LIKE A CRAZY MAN... AND IF ANYONE COULD HAVE SEEN HIM AT THAT MOMENT THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NO DOUBT OF IT...**

**I'VE MASTERED IT... I'M SURE I HAVE! NOW TO PUT IT TO THE TEST!**



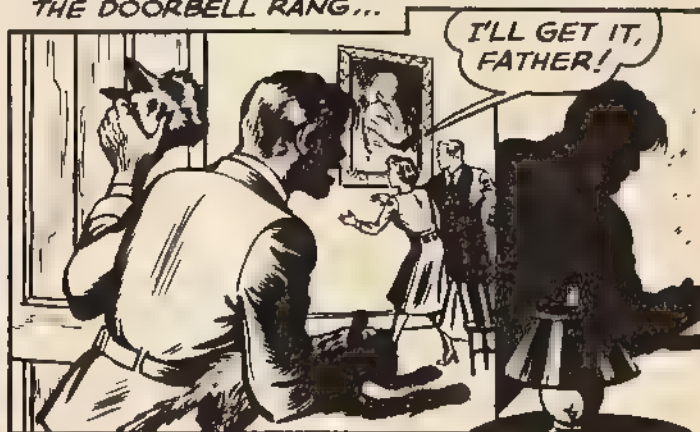
**KENDALL THEN PERFORMED A WIERD RITUAL, WAVING HIS ARMS AND CHANTING IN AN ANCIENT, LONG-FORGOTTEN LANGUAGE. THE OBJECT OF THIS CEREMONY WAS A TINY DOLL... THE FIGURE OF A DOG... A POLICE DOG...**



**KENDALL'S ACTIONS BECAME MORE AND MORE FEVERISH AS THE CLIMAX OF THE RITUAL DREW NEAR. AT LAST, IN A SURGE OF TREMENDOUS EXHULTATION HE HELD THE DOLL IN BOTH HANDS AND TWISTED, SNAPPING THE HEAD FROM THE BODY!**



**THE CEREMONY AT AN END, HE RETURNED THE STUDY TO IT'S FORMER APPEARANCE AND PREPARED TO JOIN HIS WIFE AND FATHER-IN-LAW FOR DINNER. HE WAS ABOUT TO DISPOSE OF THE BROKEN STATUE WHEN THE DOORBELL RANG...**



**THERE WAS A MAN AT THE DOOR... IN HIS ARMS HE CARRIED A DEAD DOG. KENDALL'S DOG... IT'S HEAD HUNG AT A CRAZY ANGLE...**

**I'M SORRY, MA'M... I COULDN'T AVOID HIM. HE RAN RIGHT OUT IN FRONT OF MY CAR! HIS... HIS NECK WAS BROKEN!**

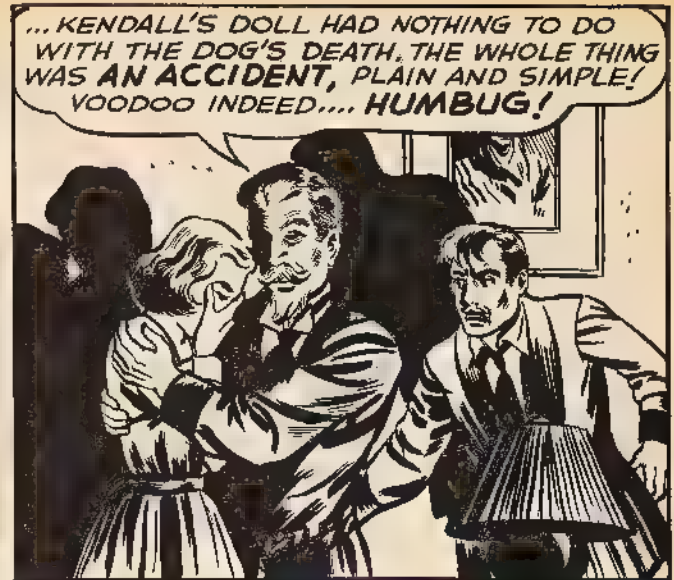
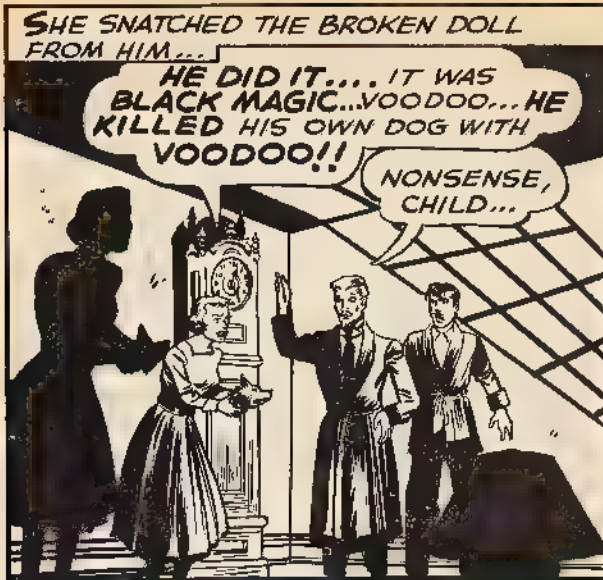


**KENDALL ENTERED THE ROOM AND STARED IN UTTER FASCINATION AT THE BODY OF THE DEAD DOG. HIS FACE WAS A MIXTURE OF AWE AND ELATION FOR HE ALONE KNEW THE STRANGE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ACCIDENT...**

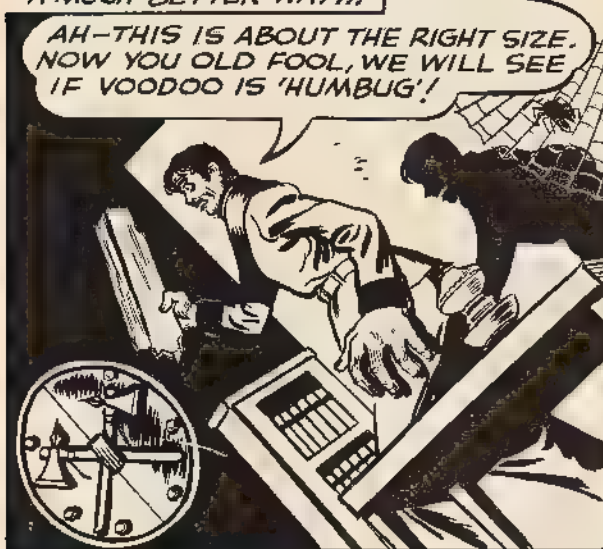
**SUDDENLY THERE WAS A SHRIEK FROM HIS WIFE...**



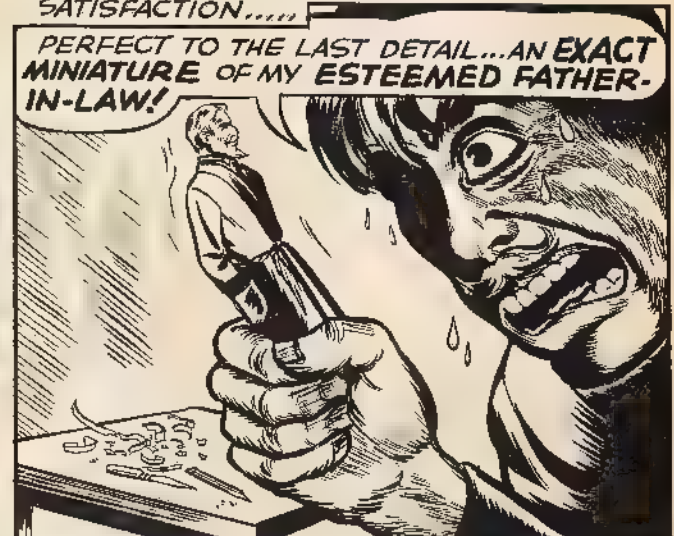




**KENDALL KNEW IT WOULD BE POINTLESS TO DISAGREE WITH HELEN'S FATHER... THERE WAS ANOTHER WAY TO PROVE THAT HE HAD CAUSED THE DOG'S DEATH, A MUCH BETTER WAY...**



**FOR SEVERAL DAYS HE WORKED FEVERISHLY ON THE TINY STATUE, CAREFULLY CHISELING THE MINUTEST DETAILS IN THE RARE WOOD. AND WHEN HE HAD FINISHED, HE STARED AT IT WITH COMPLETE SATISFACTION.....**



**AND ONCE AGAIN THE STRANGE RITUAL TOOK PLACE....**



**KENDALL BECAME SO ABSORBED IN HIS BLACK MAGIC THAT HE DID NOT SEE THE DOOR OPEN. HELEN STOOD IN THE DOORWAY AND STARED INCREDULOUSLY AS HER HUSBAND WENT THROUGH HIS WIERD INCANTATIONS....**





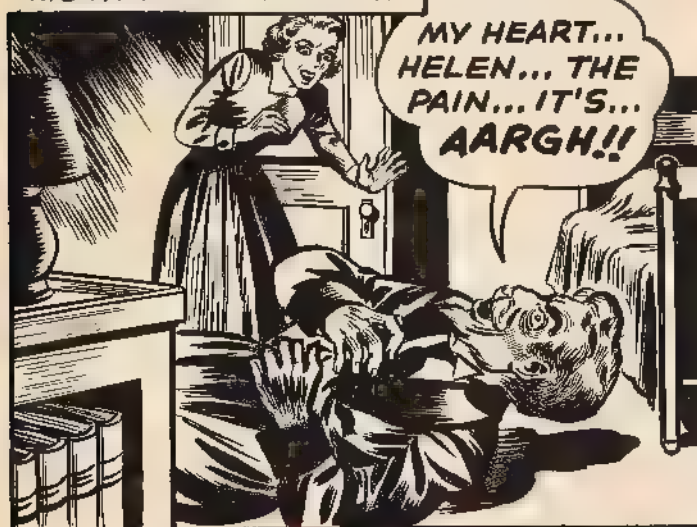
**PETRIFIED, SHE WATCHED AS KENDALL RAISED THE SPIKE AND DROVE IT INTO THE HEART OF THE WOODEN FIGURE... IT WAS ONLY THEN THAT SHE REALIZED WHOM THE DOLL REPRESENTED!**



**WITH A SCREAM SHE RAN... RAN FROM THAT SCENE OF HORROR... RACED TO HER FATHER'S ROOM... HOPING AGAINST HOPE THAT HER PREMONITION WOULD BE WRONG...**



**HE WAS LYING ON THE FLOOR, WRITHING IN AGONY, HIS HANDS TEARING AT HIS CHEST, HIS FACE DISTORTED.....**



**AND KENDALL SMILED, A WRY SATISFIED SMILE.**

**TWO WEEKS WENT BY AND HELEN WAS STILL IN A STATE OF MENTAL SHOCK. SHE KNEW HER HUSBAND HAD SOMEHOW BROUGHT ABOUT THE DEATH OF HER FATHER BUT HER MIND REFUSED TO GRASP THE TRUTH...**



**WHO INDEED.... WHO ELSE IS THERE??**





HELEN WATCHED AND WAITED... TWO DAYS LATER THE DOLL WAS FINISHED.



HELLO, DR. SAUNDERS, COULD YOU PLEASE COME OVER RIGHT AWAY. IT'S MY WIFE. I'M AFRAID SHE'S GOING TO DO SOMETHING TO HARM HERSELF. HER FATHER'S DEATH SEEMS TO HAVE UNBALANCED HER.

I'LL BE THERE IN AN HOUR...

AND WHEN THE DOCTOR ARRIVES, MY DEAR, IT WILL BE **TOO LATE!**



THE CEREMONY BEGAN. THE EERIE CHANT ROSE AND FELL, FILLING THE ROOM WITH IT'S DISSONANT TONES... THE INCENCE PERMEATING THE AIR WITH IT'S THICK, SWEET SMELLING ACRIDNESS...



THE DOCTOR ARRIVED AN HOUR LATER. KENDALL WAS RIGHT... IT WAS **TOO LATE**...



... **TOO LATE FOR KENDALL!!**



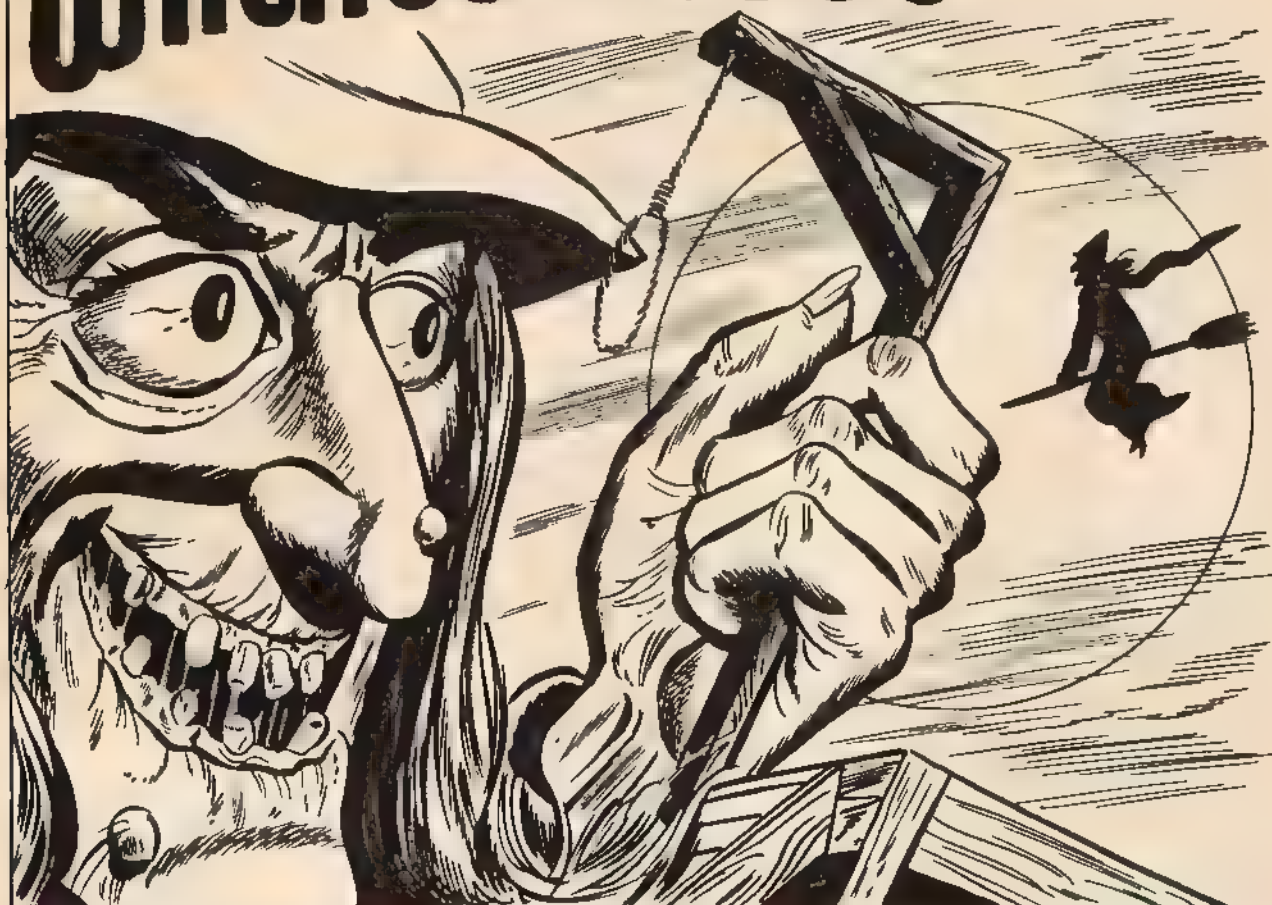
VOO DOO, HOODOO, PRETTY DOLLY, LITTLE PINS TO MAKE YOU JOLLY... CAST A SPELL AND CHANT A CURSE, NOW YOU'RE READY FOR THE HEARSE...  
VOODOO, HOODOO... ♪





HECTOR HALLOWAY WAS PATHETIC LITTLE MAN...MEEK HARMLESS, PERSECUTED BY A NAGGING, OVERBEARING WIFE. BUT ONE DAY, HECTOR'S WHOLE LIFE CHANGED, AND THE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS THAT FOLLOWED WILL SHOW YOU

# The witches' curse



MEN HAVE BEEN PLAGUED BY NAGGING DOMINEERING WIVES SINCE THE BEGINNING OF TIME, BUT NO MAN EVER HAD SUCH A WIFE AS HECTOR HALLOWAY'S!

...AND MIND YOU, DON'T BREAK ANY OF THOSE DISHES OR I'LL BREAK YOUR HEAD! AND DON'T FORGET TO SWEEP THE FLOOR!

YES, DEAR!



POOR HECTOR... HE WAS SO UNHAPPY... FOR ONLY IN HIS DREAMS DID HE HAVE THE COURAGE TO STAND UP TO HIS SHREWISH SPOUSE...

SHUT YOUR MOUTH, WOMAN, OR I'LL CUT YOUR EVIL TONGUE OUT!





OFTEN HE WOULD WALK DOWN TO THE EDGE OF THE WOODS AND THERE HE WOULD MEDITATE ON HIS MISERIES! HE WAS THUS MEDITATING ONE MOONLIT NIGHT WHEN...

WH-WHO ARE YOU?

I'M A WITCH! STUPID! HAVEN'T YOU EVER SEEN A WITCH BEFORE?



HECTOR SHOULD HAVE BEEN FRIGHTENED BY THE APPEARANCE OF THE UGLY OLD CRONE, BUT HE WAS TOO STUNNED...

A WITCH? WHAT KIND OF WITCH?

JUMPING FROGS' LEGS! YOU ARE A DOLT! I'M A **CHANGING** WITCH, STUPID!



WE WITCHES ALL HAVE DIFFERENT TALENTS! SOME CAST SPELLS... SOME BREW POISON POTIONS... I CHANGE PEOPLE INTO THINGS!

BUT HOW DO YOU DO IT?

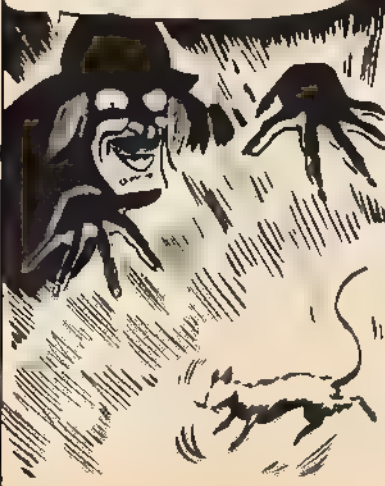


THE WHOLE SECRET LIES IN HOW YOU **FEEL**! IF YOU **FEEL** LIKE A MOUSE, YOU CAN **BE** ONE... I JUST HAVE TO SAY THE MAGIC WORDS!

I'VE BEEN FEELING LIKE A MOUSE FOR SEVEN YEARS!



THEN YOU **ARE** A MOUSE! **OTSERP... OEGNAHC... EMOCEB... ESUOM!** SEE? YOU'RE A MOUSE!



...AND NOW YOU'RE A MAN AGAIN!



SAY, THAT'S REAL KEEN... CAN YOU CHANGE ME INTO A... A LION?

WHY NOT? IF YOU CAN MAKE YOURSELF **FEEL** LIKE ONE!





HECTOR CLOSED HIS EYES... IMAGINED HIMSELF TO BE STRONG, POWERFUL, BRAVE! THE WITCH SAID THE MAGIC WORDS... WAVED HER HANDS AND...

YOU'RE A LION!



WITH A LOUD, FEROCIOUS ROAR OF SHEER PLEASURE, HECTOR, THE LION, BOUNDED OFF TOWARDS TOWN! THIS WAS TOO GOOD TO KEEP ALL TO HIMSELF!

DON'T FORGET TO COME BACK IF YOU WANT TO BE A MAN AGAIN!



EYOWW! A LION!

SOMEBODY GET A GUN!

WHERE'D IT COME FROM?



LATER...

HI, HECTOR! DIDN'T SEE A LION COME BY HERE, DID YOU? HE WAS HEADED DOWN THIS WAY!

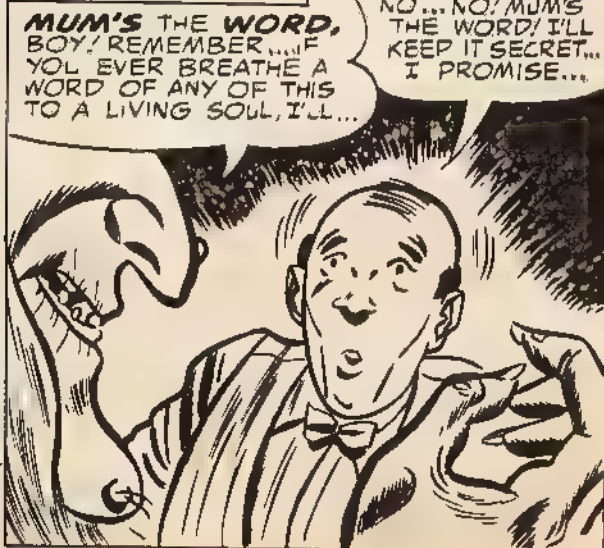
A LION? SHUCKS NO, CLEM! DIDN'T KNOW ANYONE AROUND HERE OWNED ONE!



HECTOR AND THE WITCH HAD A FINE LAUGH OVER IT... BUT THEN THE OLD HAG BECAME VERY SERIOUS...

MUM'S THE WORD, BOY! REMEMBER... IF YOL' EVER BREATHE A WORD OF ANY OF THIS TO A LIVING SOUL, I'LL...

NO... NO! MUM'S THE WORD! I'LL KEEP IT SECRET... I PROMISE...





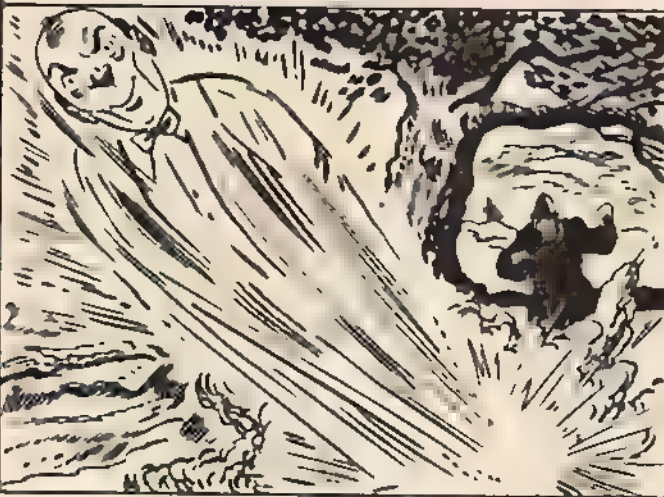
HECTOR HAD ARRANGED TO MEET THE OLD WITCH AGAIN THE FOLLOWING NIGHT...

YES, DEAR... I'VE DONE THE DISHES AND HUNG ALL THE CLOTHES...

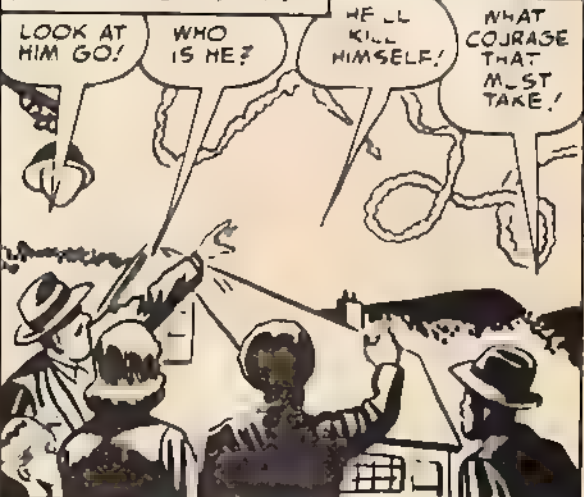
WELL, ALL RIGHT! BUT MIND YOU DON'T COME HOME AS LATE AS YOU DID LAST NIGHT, OR YOU'LL BE SORRY!



A MINUTE LATER, HECTOR WENT THROUGH THE FEELINGS, THE WITCH WENT THROUGH THE MOTIONS, AND HECTOR WENT THROUGH THE AIR... HE WAS A JET PILOT!



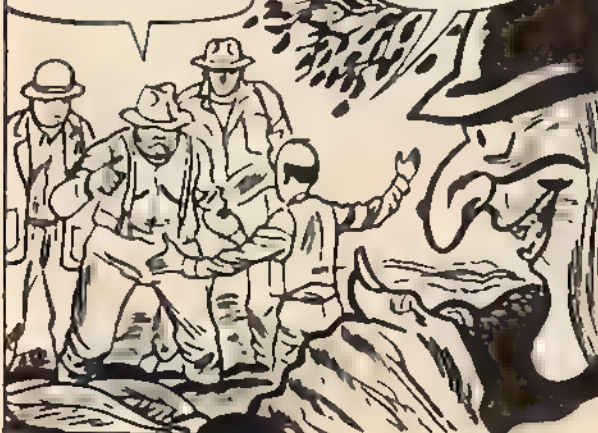
...AND THE GOOD PEOPLE OF ARDSMORE WITNESSED AN EXHIBITION OF AERIAL ACROBATICS SUCH AS HAS NEVER BEEN SEEN ANYWHERE ON EARTH!



BUT WHEN THE ARMY DISCOVERED THAT HECTOR'S WAS AN UNIDENTIFIED AIRCRAFT AND STARTED SHOOTING AT HIM, HE DECIDED TO END HIS FLYING CAREER... TEN MINUTES LATER...

THE PLANE... HECTOR... WHERE DID IT LAND? IT CAME DOWN NEAR HERE!

PLANE? WHAT PLANE?



HECTOR LAUGHED HIMSELF SICK OVER THAT ONE, BUT WHEN HE THOUGHT OF HIS WIFE WAITING FOR HIM AT HOME, HIS JOY TURNED TO BITTERNESS!

WELL, I'LL HAVE TO GO HOME NOW... MY WIFE, YOU KNOW...

OKAY, HECKY BOY! REMEMBER... MUM'S THE WORD!





AND SO, EVERY NIGHT HECTOR MET THE FRIENDLY WITCH WHO CHANGED HIM INTO ALL SORTS OF THINGS... COWBOY, ELEPHANT... FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HIS LIFE HECTOR WAS SO HAPPY THAT HE DIDN'T EVEN MIND HIS WIFE'S NAGGING... UNTIL ONE DAY...

I DON'T LIKE THAT SILLY GRIN YOU'VE BEEN WEARING LATELY, HECTOR! JUST WHERE DO YOU GO EVERY NIGHT?

JUST DOWN BY THE WOODS ...FOR A WALK...



PANIC GRIPPED THE HEART OF HECTOR HALLOWAY! HIS WIFE WAS GROWING SUSPICIOUS, AND IF SHE EVER FOUND OUT WHAT HE WAS UP TO, SHE'D QUICKLY PUT A STOP TO IT... SOMETHING DRASTIC WOULD HAVE TO BE DONE!

WELL, HECKY BOY... WHAT DO YOU **FEEL** LIKE TONIGHT?

TONIGHT I WANT TO BE A **BLACK KNIGHT** ON A BLACK CHARGER W. TH A BIG SHARP SWORD!



A MOMENT LATER, HECTOR, THE BLACK KNIGHT WAS GALLOPING FULL SPEED TOWARDS HIS HOME... AND HIS WIFE!



WH-WHO ARE YOU?

I AM THE BLACK KNIGHT COME TO EXACT JUSTICE FOR MY NOBLE FRIEND, HECTOR HALLOWAY!



PREPARE TO MEET THY DOOM, EVIL WOMAN, FOR ALL THE HEARTACHE AND MISERY THOU HAST INFLICTED UPON THINE INNOCENT HUSBAND!

NO... NO! HAVE PITY!





SHE SCREAMED AND PLEADED AND WRUNG HER HANDS BUT THE BLACK KNIGHT SHOWED NO MERCY! HE LAUGHED IN HER FACE, DELIGHTED AT SEEING HER CRINGING AND WEeping BEFORE HIM ...



... AND THEN WITH ONE FELL SWOOP OF HIS MIGHTY SWORD...

ENOUGH! THINE EVIL TONGUE SHALL HENCEFORTH BE SILENT!



WHEN IT WAS DONE, HE RETURNED TO THE OAK TREE WHERE THE WITCH CHANGED HIM BACK TO HIMSELF, MAKING HIM SWEAR AGAIN TO KEEP THE SECRET... ... HE THEN WENT STRAIGHT HOME AND CALLED THE SHERIFF!

I CAME HOME FROM MY WALK AND FOUND HER THAT WAY!

LOOKS LIKE THE WORK OF SOMEONE BIG AND POWERFUL ... IT TAKES A LOT O' STRENGTH TO CHOP A HEAD OFF AS CLEAN AS THAT!



OH, THE TOWNSPEOPLE WERE IN A FUROR TO BE SURE, AND HECTOR WAS ENJOYING IT IMMENSELY, BUT AFTER A WHILE THE TALK BEGAN TO VEX HIM...

IT MUST HAVE BEEN A **LUNATIC!**

ONLY A **COWARDLY BRUTE** WOULD DO SUCH A THING TO A **FINE** WOMAN!



IT WAS UNBEARABLE THAT THEY SHOULD THINK SUCH THINGS! DIDN'T THEY KNOW THE SORT OF WOMAN SHE WAS? ... DIDN'T THEY REALIZE THAT SHE DESERVED TO DIE? ... COULDN'T THEY UNDERSTAND THAT HER MURDER WAS AN ACT OF JUSTICE? ... AT LAST HE COULD STAND IT NO MORE...

**I KILLED HER!**  
**I KILLED HER!**





HE DESCRIBED TO THEM HOW HE, AS THE BLACK KNIGHT, HAD WREAKED HIS VENGEANCE FOR ALL HIS SUFFERING...

YOU... THE BLACK KNIGHT... HA HA HA!

WHO'S HE TRYING TO KID? HAW HAW HAW HAW!



THEY DIDN'T BELIEVE HIM... BUT THEY MUST! HE TOLD THEM ABOUT THE WITCH, ABOUT HIS MANY TRANSFORMATIONS... BUT THEY LAUGHED ALL THE HARDER!

A WITCH... OH, NO! HA HA HA!

I'VE TOLD YOU THE SECRET... YOU'VE GOT TO BELIEVE IT! IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME, THEN YOU'VE MADE ME BREAK MY WORD TO THE WITCH FOR NOTHING! AS IT IS, I FEEL LIKE A RAT!



NO SOONER WERE THE WORDS OUT OF HIS MOUTH WHEN A STRANGE, INCREDIBLE THING HAPPENED RIGHT BEFORE THEIR VERY EYES! THERE WAS A BLINDING FLASH OF LIGHT, AND WHERE ONCE HAD SAT HECTOR, THERE NOW CROUCHED...

A RAT!

WHERE'S HECTOR?

IT'S SOME SORT OF TRICK!



BUT WHEN THEY SEARCHED IN VAIN FOR HECTOR AND THEY SAW THAT THE RAT MADE NO EFFORT TO ESCAPE, THE TRUTH BECAME ALL TOO CLEAR...

THEN HECTOR'S STORY WAS TRUE!

IT HAD TO BE A WITCH'S DOING!

HECTOR WAS THE MURDERER!



AND SO A STRANGE TRIAL WAS HELD...

WE FIND THE... DEPENDENT... ER... A... HECTOR HALLOWAY... GUILTY OF MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE!



...AND THAT'S HOW IT HAPPENS THAT IN THE LITTLE TOWN OF ARDSMORE, THEY'RE GOING TO HANG A RAT!



The End



IT IS FORTUNATE INDEED THAT EULOGIES TO THE DEAD ARE WRITTEN BY THE LIVING... FOR HOW DIFFERENT IT WOULD BE IF THE CORPSE COULD WRITE ITS OWN...



# EPITAPH!



MIRIAM...  
MIRIAM, WHERE  
ARE YOU?

MIRIAM AND I WERE THE HAPPIEST NEWLY-  
WEDS IN THE WORLD...

OH, DARLING...  
WHAT A BEAUTIFUL  
HOUSE!

A BEAUTIFUL HOUSE  
FOR A BEAUTIFUL  
BRIDE!



SHE WAS THE MOST CONSIDERATE, DEVOTED  
WIFE A MAN EVER HAD! THERE WAS A  
WARMTH IN HER LOVE THAT MADE LIFE A  
THRILLING, EXALTING EXPERIENCE!

HI, DARLING...  
DINNER'S ALMOST  
READY... YOUR  
FAVORITE DISH!

YOU'RE MY FAVORITE  
DISH! WHAT DID I EVER  
DO TO DESERVE  
SOMEONE LIKE YOU?





BUT ONE DAY, AFTER ONLY SIX MONTHS OF WEDDED BLISS, I CAME HOME AND MIRIAM WAS NOT AT HOME TO GREET ME! THERE WAS PANIC IN MY HEART... A TERRIBLE PREMONITION OF DISASTER...



MIRIAM... I'M HOME!  
MIRIAM?

PRACTICALLY I SEARCHED THE HOUSE! THERE WAS NO NOTE OR ANYTHING! I CALLED ALL THE PLACES SHE MIGHT BE AT... FRIENDS, RELATIVES... FINALLY I CALLED THE POLICE, HOPING AGAINST HOPE THAT MIRIAM WOULD COME WALKING THROUGH THE DOOR BEFORE THEY ARRIVED, AND YET FEELING DEEP INSIDE THAT SOME TRAGEDY HAD BEFALLEN HER...



WHERE CAN SHE BE? WHERE?

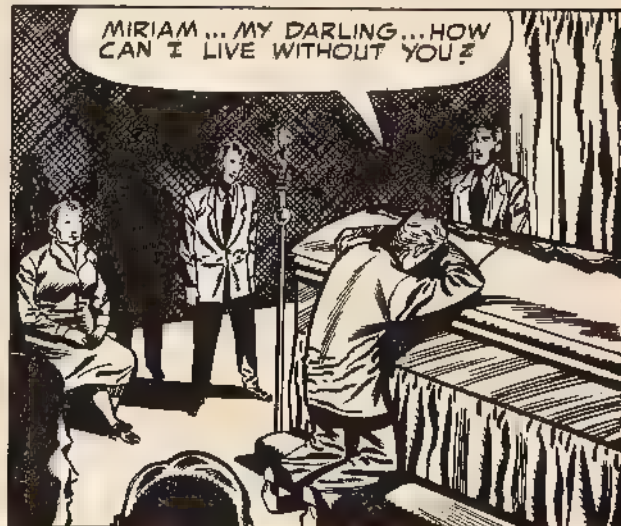
THEY FOUND HER BATTERED BODY AMONGST THE ROCKS AT THE FOOT OF THE CLIFF OVERLOOKING THE OCEAN...



I'M SORRY, MR. CLAY... SHE'S...

I KNOW... YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME... SHE'S... **DEAD!**

NO MAN WAS EVER SO GRIEF-STRICKEN AS I... IT WAS AS THOUGH A PART OF ME HAD DIED WITH HER... MIRIAM, MY MIRIAM WAS GONE... ALL THE HAPPINESS AND JOY AND WARMTH AND LOVE WERE GONE... GONE FOREVER...



MIRIAM... MY DARLING... HOW CAN I LIVE WITHOUT YOU?

I WATCHED THEM BURY HER... AND WITH HER, MY HEART... THE TEARS FLOWED FREELY DOWN MY CHEEKS AS I WEPT UNCONTROLLABLY... UNASHAMED...



ASHES TO ASHES... DUST TO DUST...

SOB... SOB...

I HAD THIS EPITAPH INSCRIBED ON HER GRAVESTONE: NO GREATER LOVE DID MAN EVER RECEIVE FROM WOMAN!



MY FRIENDS TRIED TO EXTEND THEIR SYMPATHY, BUT MY SORROW WAS INCONSOLABLE! AT LAST THEY LEFT ME TO MYSELF...

POOR EDGAR... WHAT A TERRIBLE TRAGEDY!

YES... HE'LL NEVER FIND ANOTHER GIRL LIKE HER! SHE WAS ONE IN A MILLION!



I RETURNED TO OUR COTTAGE, BUT I COULDN'T BRING MYSELF TO ENTER! I THOUGHT OF ALL THE HAPPINESS THAT WE HAD ONCE SHARED TOGETHER WITHIN ITS WALLS... A HAPPINESS THAT I KNEW I WOULD NEVER AGAIN KNOW...

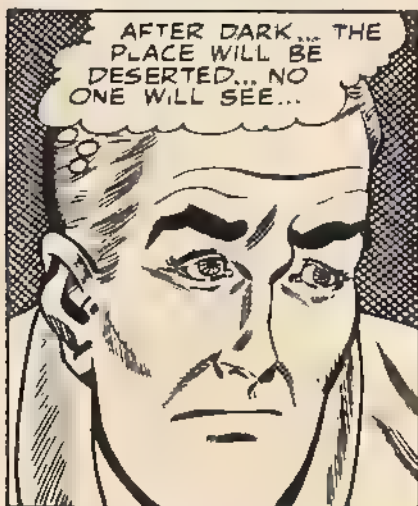
NO, NO! I CAN'T... THE EMPTINESS... I'D NEVER BE ABLE TO STAND IT!



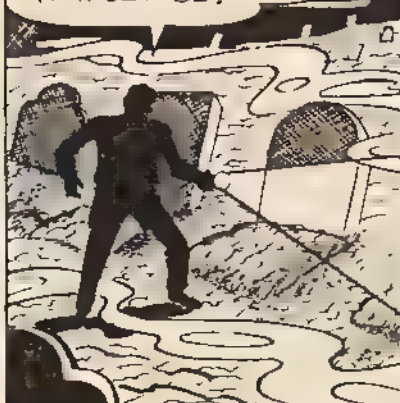
SUDDENLY I HAD A POWERFUL LONGING TO SPEND THE NIGHT AT HER GRAVE... TO MOURN AND WEEP AND POUR OUT MY ANGUISH... TO BE WITH HER FOR JUST ONE MORE NIGHT...

BUT IN THE DARK, I COULDN'T FIND IT... I COULDN'T FIND MIRIAM'S GRAVE! FRANTICALLY I SEARCH AMONG THE GRAVES WINDING MY WAY THROUGH THE LABYRINTH OF STONES AND MARKERS...

I STUMBLED... FELL... THERE WAS A SHARP, SEARING PAIN ON THE SIDE OF MY HEAD...



WHERE IS IT? I KNOW IT'S OVER THIS WAY... IT MUST BE!

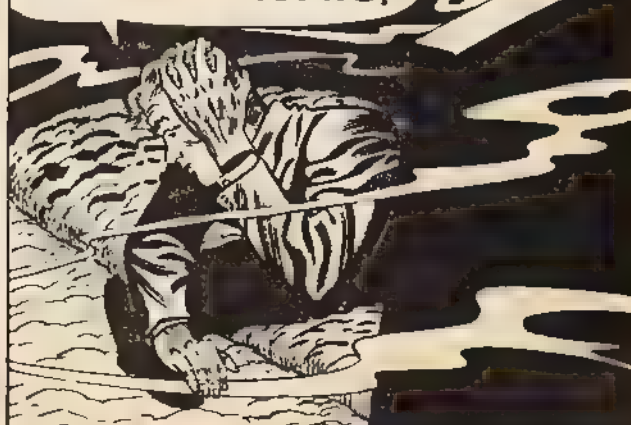


THE LAST THING I REMEMBER SEEING WAS THE EPITAPH ON THE STONE MY HEAD HAD STRUCK...



HOW LONG I REMAINED UNCONSCIOUS, I CANNOT SAY... BUT SUDDENLY I WAS AWAKENED BY A STRANGE RUMBLING BENEATH THE SPOT WHERE I LAY... IT WAS A WEIRD, STARTLING SENSATION...

WHAT'S THAT? THE GRAVE SEEMS TO BE MOVING!





IT SPRANG UP AND LEAPED BACKWARDS... AND NONE TOO SOON... FOR JUST THEN THE MOST FANTASTIC THING OCCURRED. A HORRIBLE, HALF DECOMPOSED CORPSE ROSE STRAIGHT UP FROM THE GRAVE AND SEEMED TO BE READING THE INSCRIPTION ON ITS OWN HEADSTONE...



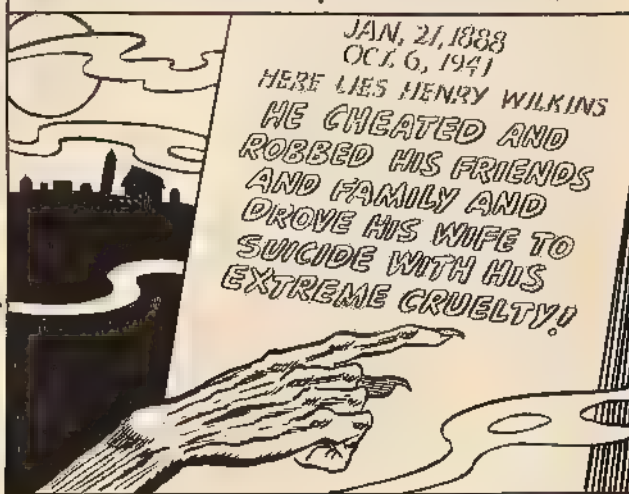
GOOD LORD... I MUST BE DREAMING!

SUDDENLY IT BEGAN TO MOVE ITS HAND ACROSS THE FACE OF THE STONE AS THOUGH IT WERE WRITING SOMETHING...



WHAT'S IT DOING?

... WITH THE POINT OF ITS FINGER, IT HAD WRITTEN IN LARGE IRRIDESCENT LETTERS A NEW EPITAPH, OBLITERATING THE ORIGINAL ONE. WHERE BEFORE IT HAD READ "HIS HONESTY, INTEGRITY, AND KINDNESS WILL LIVE FOREVER," NOW IT READ...



IT WAS UNBELIEVABLE... A CORPSE CORRECTING ITS OWN EPITAPH... I TRIED TO SHAKE OFF THE VISION BUT IT PERSISTED! SUDDENLY IT TURNED AND FACED ME... ITS COLD DEAD EYES FIXED IN AN UNBLINKING, TERRIFYING GAZE...



IN PANIC, I TURNED TO RUN WHEN THE HORROR OF ALL HORRORS GREETED MY EYES...



NO... NO... THIS IS SOME FANTASTIC NIGHTMARE!



FROM OUT OF EVERY GRAVE HAD RISEN ITS OCCUPANT... SOME HALF DECAYED... SOME PARTLY DISMEMBERED. OTHERS SHOWING THE BEGINNINGS OF DECOMPOSITION. IT WAS A MACABRE PANORAMA OF THE DEAD. AND EACH WAS INSCRIBING ON HIS TOMBSTONE HIS OWN EPITAPH... BARING HIS SOUL IN CONFESSION...



SUDDENLY I THOUGHT OF MIRIAM... MY BELOVED MIRIAM... SHE TOO MUST BE ASCENDED FROM THE GRAVE... ONCE AGAIN I WOULD FEAST MY EYES ON HER LOVELINESS...



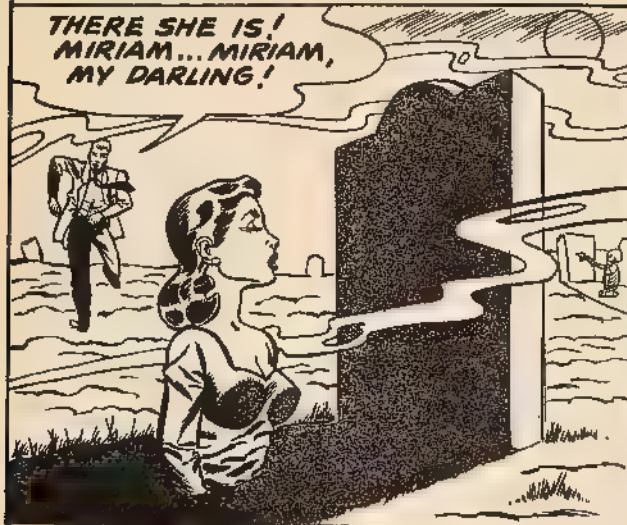
DESPERATELY I RAN AMONGST THE GRAVES, DODGING THE HORRIBLE SPECTRES OF THE DEAD... SEARCHING, SEARCHING FOR THE FACE I SO ADORED...





AND THEN I SAW HER... IN THE MIDST OF ALL THOSE RISEN, SCRAWLING CORPSES I FOUND HER...

THERE SHE IS!  
MIRIAM... MIRIAM,  
MY DARLING!



I RAN TO HER SIDE, CALLING HER NAME... BUT SHE NEITHER SAW NOR HEARD...

MIRIAM... IT'S I,  
EDGAR, WHO LOVES  
YOU AND WHOM...



MIRIAM, TOO, WAS REWRITING HER EPITAPH... HER INDEX FINGER MAKING GRACEFUL CIRCLES OVER THE FACE OF HER GRAVESTONE...



WITH FEARFUL EYES, I READ WHAT SHE HAD PENNED IN BOLD, LUMINOUS SCRIPT. WHERE BEFORE HAD BEEN WRITTEN, "NO GREATER LOVE DID MAN EVER RECEIVE FROM WOMAN," I NOW READ...

*Faithless to  
her husband,  
she fell to her  
death while  
meeting her  
lover!*



THE NEXT MORNING, THEY FOUND ME SPRAWLED ACROSS HER GRAVE... UNCONSCIOUS.

LOOK AT HIS FINGERS...  
ALL BLOODY AND  
COVERED WITH  
DIRT! LOOKS LIKE  
HE WAS TRYING TO  
DIG UP HER GRAVE  
WITH HIS BARE  
HANDS!

YEAH... FUNNY  
WHAT **SORROW**  
DOES TO SOME  
GUYS!

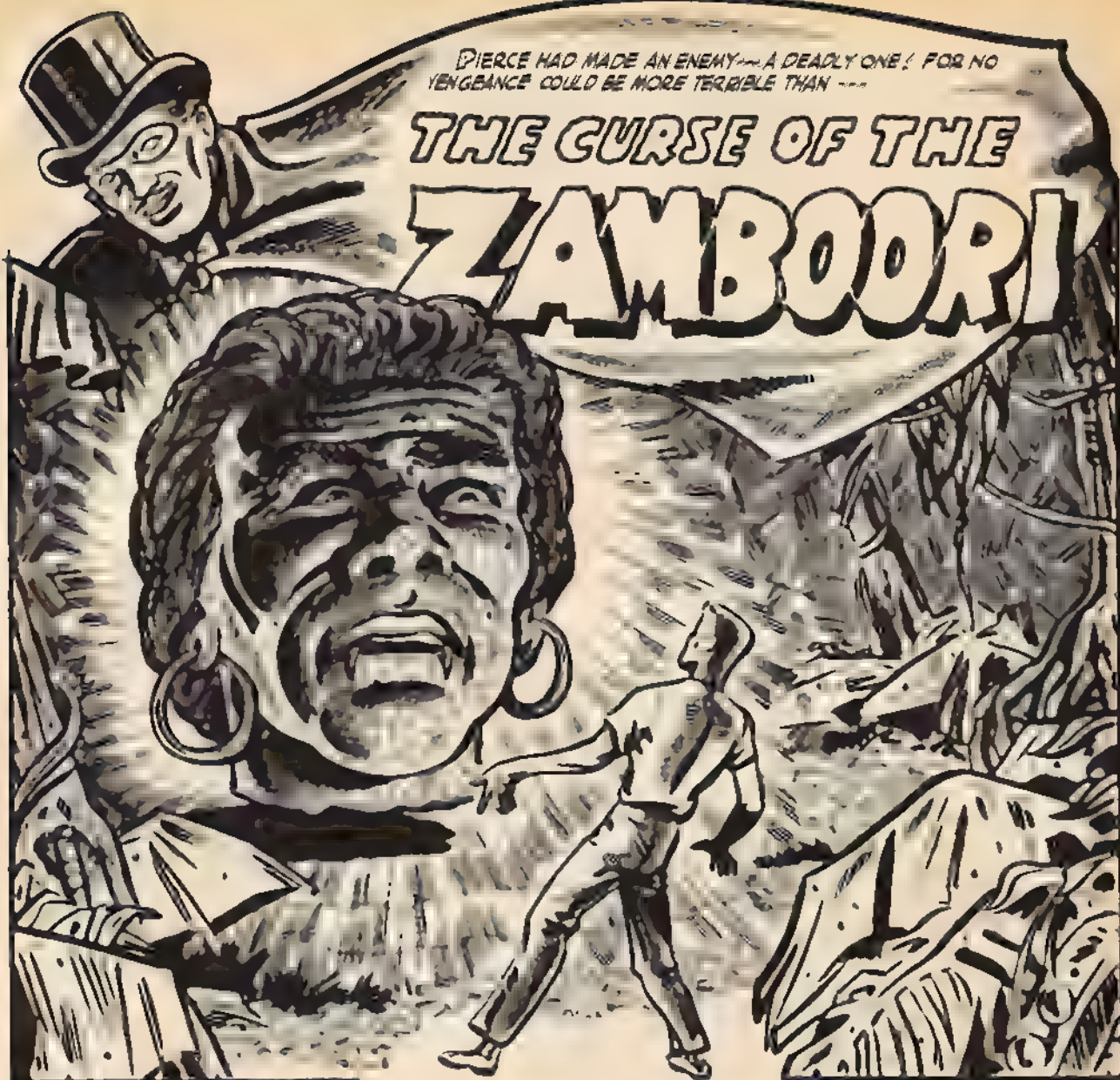


THE END



PIERCE HAD MADE AN ENEMY--A DEADLY ONE! FOR NO VENGEANCE COULD BE MORE TERRIBLE THAN ---

# THE CURSE OF THE ZAMBOORI



THERE ARE FEW PLACES ON THE FACE OF THE GLOBE TO WHICH THE WHITE MAN HAS NOT BROUGHT SOME TRACES OF CIVILIZATION--ONE OF THESE PLACES LIES IN THE HEART OF THE AMAZON COUNTRY! IT WAS HERE THAT PROFESSOR ENGLANDER AND HIS ASSISTANT, PIERCE TRADED STEEL TOOLS AND IMPLEMENTS FOR PRICELESS TREASURES OF NATIVE ART---



WELL, ANOTHER WEEK IN THIS GODFORSAKEN COUNTRY AND WE'LL BE ABLE TO SHOVE OFF



SURELY, PIERCE WOULD STOPPING ONTO THE BOAT---

ATTACK ME WILL HE? -- UH, GOSH THAT O'RTY HEATHEN!

WHAT ARE YOU MUTTERING ABOUT PIERCE? WHAT'S HAPPENED?

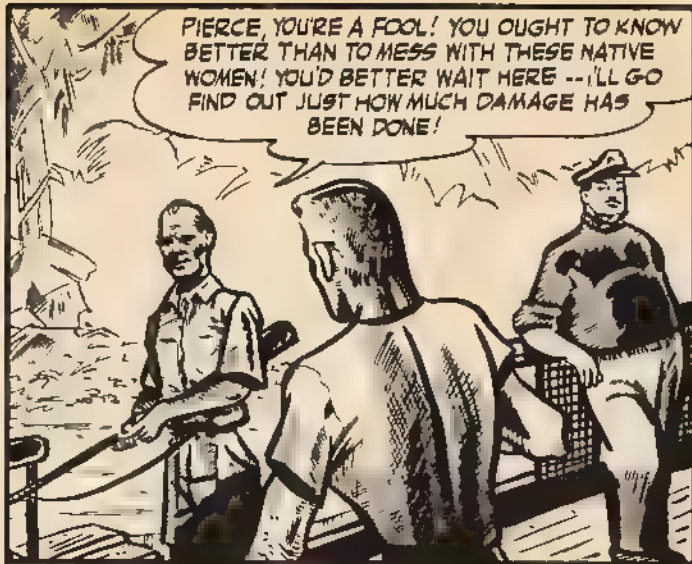




I HAD A RUN IN WITH ONE OF THE NATIVES... CAUGHT ME TALKING TO HIS WOMAN! HE TRIED TO ATTACK ME WITH A KNIFE! IF I'D BEEN ARMED, I'D HAVE KILLED HIM!



PIERCE, YOU'RE A FOOL! YOU OUGHT TO KNOW BETTER THAN TO MESS WITH THESE NATIVE WOMEN! YOU'D BETTER WAIT HERE -- I'LL GO FIND OUT JUST HOW MUCH DAMAGE HAS BEEN DONE!



THE PROFESSOR WENT ASHORE AND HAD A TALK WITH THE CHIEF OF THE TRIBE AND THEN RETURNED ---

-- FORTUNATELY THE NATIVES WON'T INTERCEDE! IT'S STRICTLY BETWEEN YOU AND THE IRATE HUSBAND!



OH, INCIDENTALLY-- HE HAPPENS TO BE A MEMBER OF THE ZAMBOORI-- THE TRIBE'S MYSTIC SOCIETY! HE'S STUDYING TO BE A WITCH-DOCTOR!

YOU MEAN **BLACK MAGIC?**

HA-HA-- DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH! THAT DOESN'T WORRY ME A BIT!



PROFESSOR ENGLANDER ADVISED HIS IMPETUOUS ASSISTANT TO REMAIN OUT OF SIGHT FOR THE REMAINDER OF THEIR STAY, BUT PIERCE WAS NOT SO EASILY DAUNTED ---

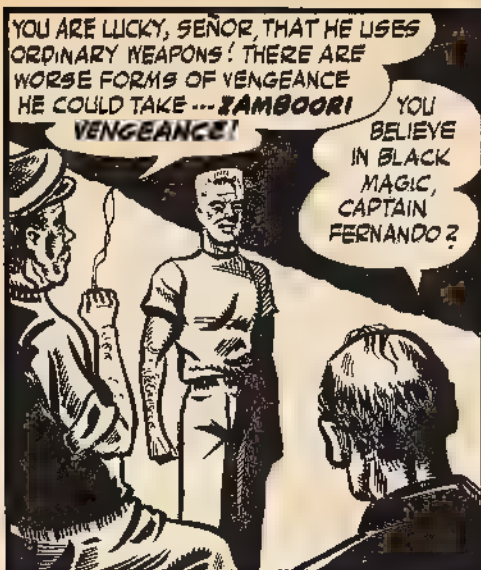
AAH! THIS IS CRAZY-- THAT BLASTED HEATHEN DOESN'T SCARE ME! I'M GOING ASHORE!



GET BACK HERE, YOU FOOL!

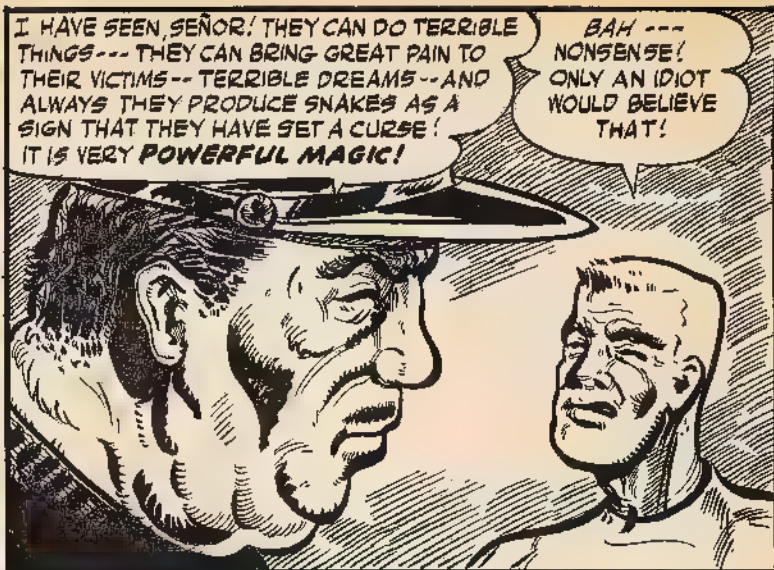






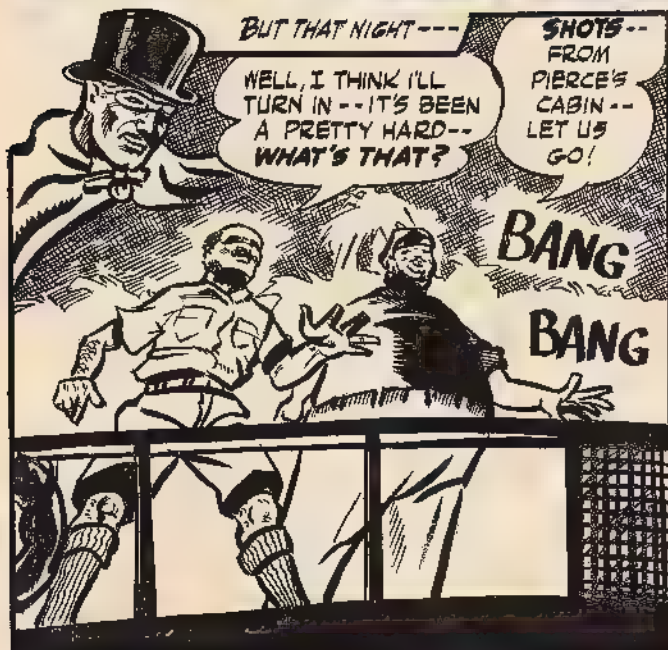
YOU ARE LUCKY, SEÑOR, THAT HE USES ORDINARY WEAPONS! THERE ARE WORSE FORMS OF VENGEANCE HE COULD TAKE --- **ZAMBOORI VENGEANCE!**

YOU BELIEVE IN BLACK MAGIC, CAPTAIN FERNANDO?



I HAVE SEEN, SEÑOR! THEY CAN DO TERRIBLE THINGS--- THEY CAN BRING GREAT PAIN TO THEIR VICTIMS-- TERRIBLE DREAMS--AND ALWAYS THEY PRODUCE SNAKES AS A SIGN THAT THEY HAVE SET A CURSE! IT IS VERY **POWERFUL MAGIC!**

**BAH --- NONSENSE! ONLY AN IDIOT WOULD BELIEVE THAT!**



BUT THAT NIGHT---

WELL, I THINK I'LL TURN IN -- IT'S BEEN A PRETTY HARD-- **WHAT'S THAT?**

**SHOTS-- FROM PIERCE'S CABIN-- LET US GO!**

**BANG BANG**

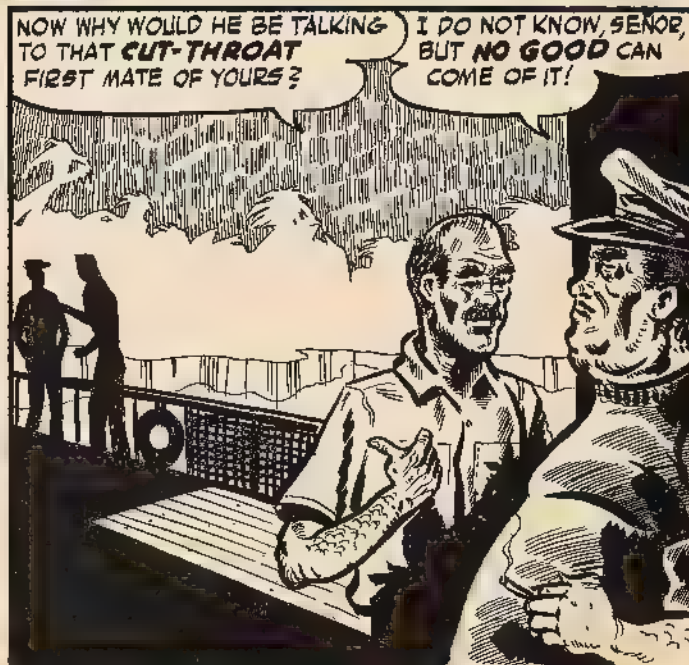


THEY WERE COILED RIGHT THERE IN THE MIDDLE OF MY BUNK-- LUCKY THING I TURNED ON THE LIGHT!

**SNAKE! THE SIGN OF THE ZAMBOORI!**



THE ZAMBOORI, EH? WELL I'LL SHOW THAT SAVAGE WHO HE'S FOOLING WITH---



NOW WHY WOULD HE BE TALKING TO THAT **CUT-THROAT** FIRST MATE OF YOURS?

I DO NOT KNOW, SEÑOR, BUT **NO GOOD** CAN COME OF IT!



HOURS LATER JUST BEFORE DAYBREAK A STRANGE SCENE TOOK PLACE --



WELL, DID YOU DO IT?

AYE, GUV'NER -- GOT WHAT YOU WANTED RIGHT HERE! THERE WAS NOTHING TO IT!

THE TWO MEN STOLE SILENTLY TO THE ENGINE ROOM!

OPEN THAT FURNACE DOOR!

RIGHTO, GUV'NER!

PIERCE REMOVED THE WRAPPINGS FROM THE PACKAGE THE MATE HAD DELIVERED TO HIM --



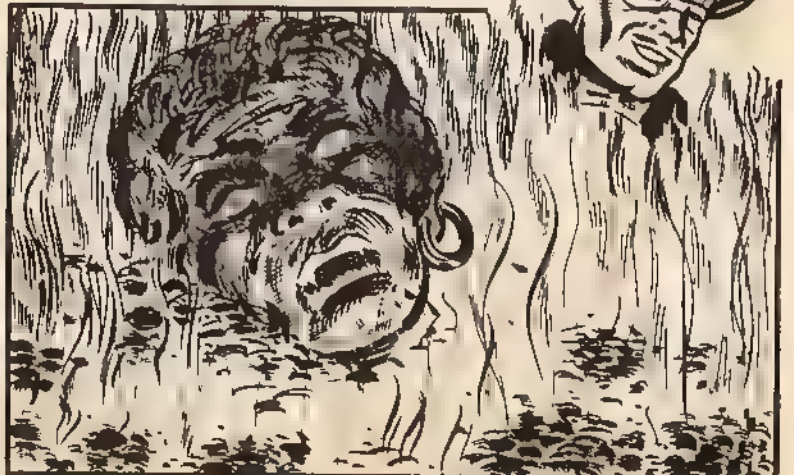
NOT A VERY PRETTY SORT, WAS 'E? I OPE I GOT THE RIGHT ONE!

THAT'S HIM ALL RIGHT -- GOOD WORK, MAN!

AND NOW TO BE RID OF THIS UGLY SAVAGE FOR GOOD!



THE FLAMES CRACKLED AND HISSED AS THE HEAD SHRIVELED INTO A QUIVERING MASS OF BONE AND FLESH! PIERCE GAZED IN FASCINATION AT THE BLACK, BEADY EYES WHICH SEEMED TO STARE UP AT HIM THROUGH THE FLAMES -- ACCUSINGLY -- MENACINGLY --



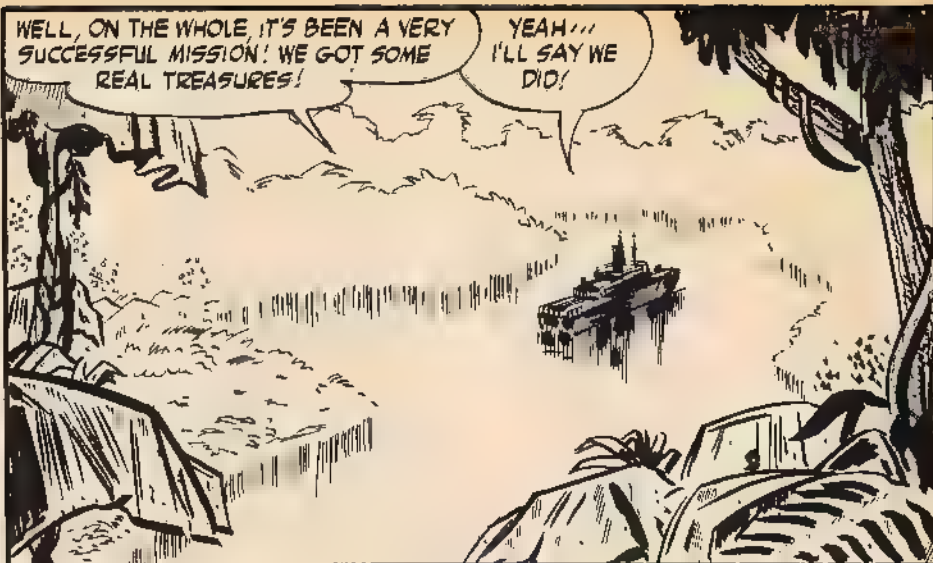


AT THE CRACK OF DAWN, THEY HOISTED ANCHOR, CAST OFF THEIR LINES, AND WERE SOON STEAMING DOWN-RIVER TOWARD RIO DE JANEIRO --



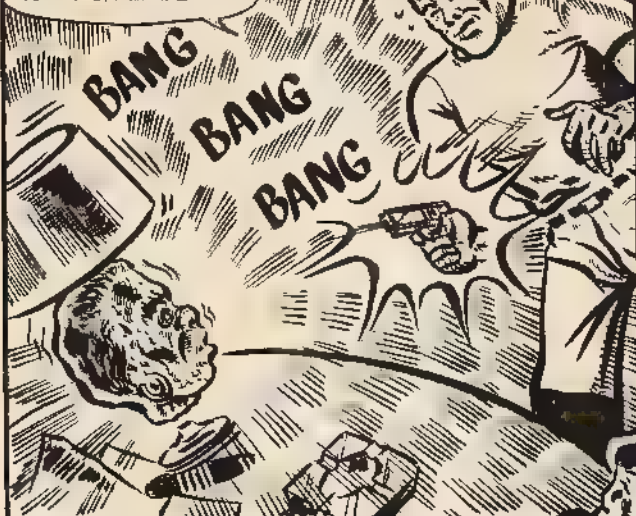
WELL, ON THE WHOLE, IT'S BEEN A VERY SUCCESSFUL MISSION! WE GOT SOME REAL TREASURES!

YEAH... I'LL SAY WE DID!



BUT IF PIERCE THOUGHT HIS TROUBLES WERE OVER, HE WAS MISTAKEN! THEY WERE JUST BEGINNING --

NO! IT CAN'T BE --



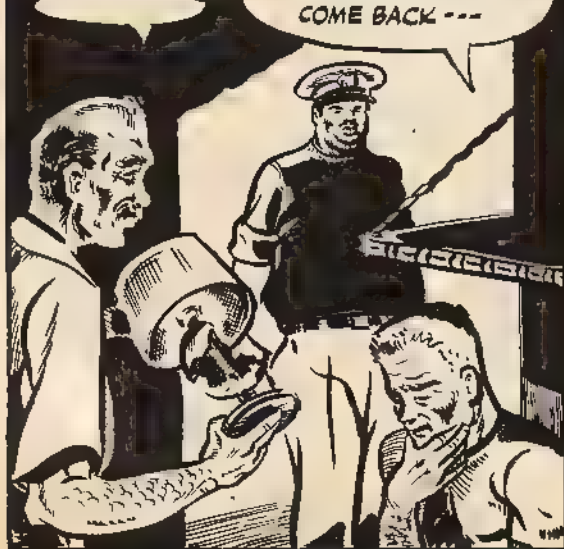
WHAT WAS THAT SHOOTING ABOUT? WHAT HAPPENED?

THE HEAD-- THE HEATHEN'S HEAD! IT WAS RIGHT THERE!



WHAT HEAD? IT WAS NOTHING-- BUT A LAMP-STAND IN THE SHAPE OF A GLOBE!

IT WAS THE HEAD, I TELL YOU -- BUT HOW? I BURNED IT MYSELF! IT COULDN'T COME BACK --



PIERCE BROKE DOWN AND RELATED HOW HE HAD HIRED THE FIRST MATE TO MURDER THE NATIVE AND BRING BACK THE HEAD AS PROOF --

AND THEN I THREW IT INTO THE FURNACE -- IT WATCHED IT BURN --

I AM AFRAID YOU HAVE MADE A TERRIBLE MISTAKE, SENOR! THE MURDERER'S CURSE IS THE WORST OF THE ZAMBOORI CURSES! IT WILL FOLLOW YOU NOW TO THE GRAVE!





PIERCE TRIED TO LAUGH OFF CAPTAIN FERNANDO'S WORDS, BUT HE WAS SOON TO LEARN THE TRUTH OF THEM! IN RIO DE JANEIRO THEY TOOK ROOMS AT A HOTEL TO AWAIT THE ARRIVAL OF AN AMERICAN STEAMSHIP



HEADS! FOUR OF THEM! LET ME OUT OF HERE!

PIERCE ... YOU'VE GOT TO PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER! IT'S NOTHING BUT A BED!

I TELL YOU THEY WERE THERE! I'M NOT GOING BACK INTO THAT ROOM!

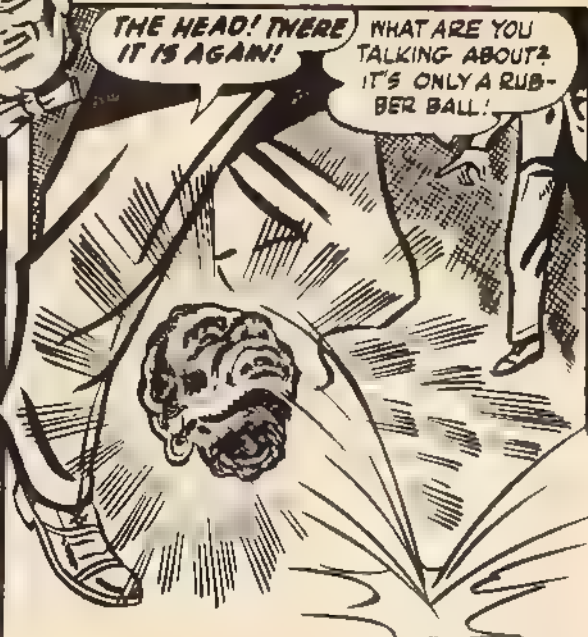


IT WAS A TREMBLING PIERCE THAT ACCOMPANIED PROFESSOR ENGLANDER DOWN TO THE PIER TO ARRANGE PASSAGE TO THE STATES! ON THE WAY, THEY RAN INTO SOME CHILDREN PLAYING BALL!



THE HEAD! THERE IT IS AGAIN!

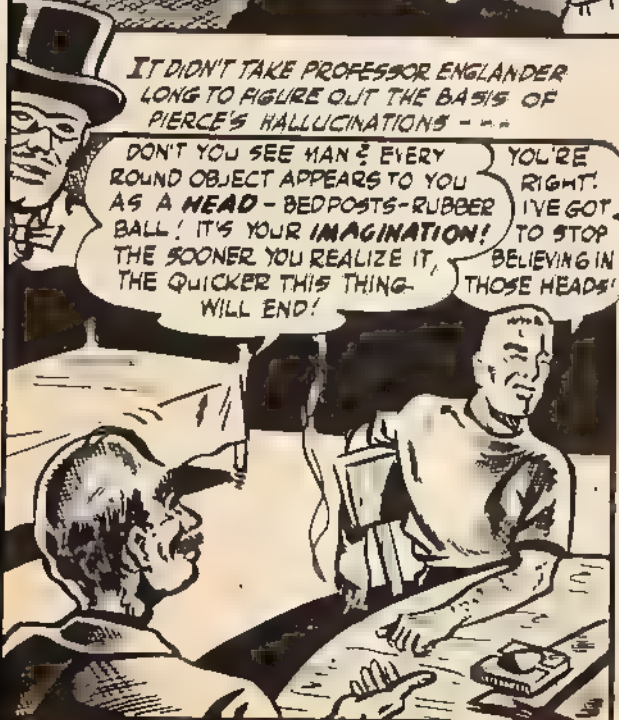
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? IT'S ONLY A RUBBER BALL!



IT DIDN'T TAKE PROFESSOR ENGLANDER LONG TO FIGURE OUT THE BASIS OF PIERCE'S HALLUCINATIONS - - -

DON'T YOU SEE HAN? EVERY ROUND OBJECT APPEARS TO YOU AS A HEAD - BEDPOSTS - RUBBER BALL! IT'S YOUR IMAGINATION! THE SOONER YOU REALIZE IT, THE QUICKER THIS THING WILL END!

YOU'RE RIGHT! I'VE GOT TO STOP BELIEVING IN THOSE HEADS!



BUT THE VISIONS PERSISTED, AND ALTHOUGH PIERCE TRIED TO IGNORE THEM, HIS NERVES WERE REACHING THE BREAKING POINT ...

WHY? WHY DON'T THEY STOP? WHY DON'T THEY LEAVE ME ALONE?





**SUDDENLY AN IDEA OCCURRED TO HIM! IF THESE HEADS WERE MERELY A TRICK OF HIS VISION, AS THE PROFESSOR SAID, THEN WHY COULDN'T HE FOIL IT WITH HIS SENSE OF TOUCH?**

**THAT'S IT! IF I COULD JUST FEEL THESE THINGS FEEL WHAT THEY REALLY ARE, THEN I COULD CONVINCE MYSELF THAT THE HEADS DON'T REALLY EXIST!**



**DETERMINED TO TRY THIS PLAN, PIERCE LOOKED ABOUT THE ROOM AND SURE ENOUGH, WHERE THERE SHOULD HAVE BEEN A SIMPLE DOORKNOB, HE SAW A -- HEAD!**

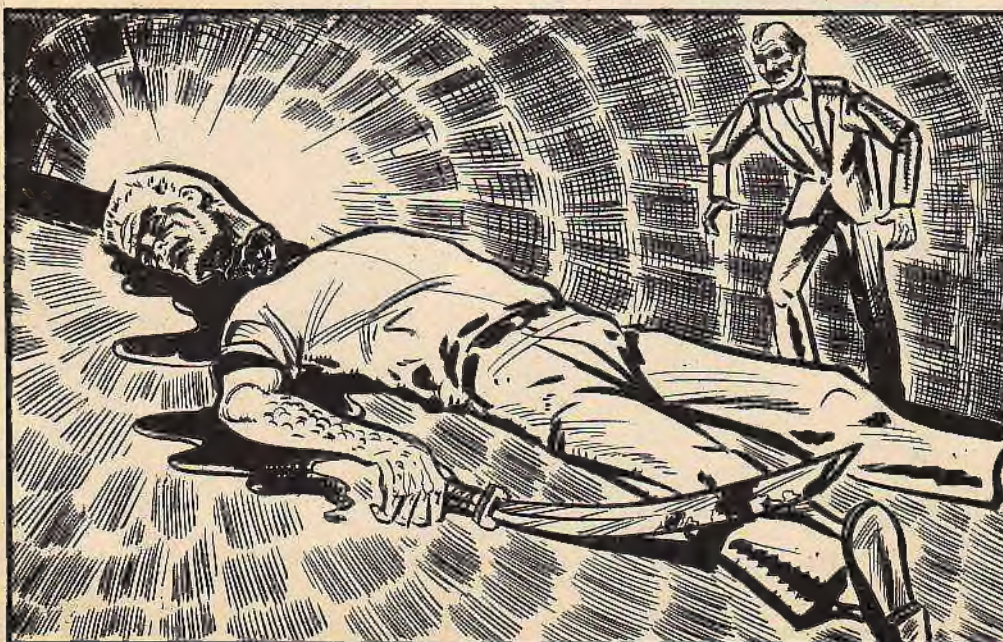
**NOW ALL I'VE GOT TO DO IS FEEL THE KNOB, AND THE HEAD SHOULD DISAPPEAR!**



**WITHOUT HESITATING HE GRIPPED THE THING IN HIS HAND -- WITH A SHRIEK OF HORROR HE PULLED AWAY --- FOR THE THING IN HIS HAND WAS FLESH AND HAIR AND IT HAD QUIVERED AGAINST HIS PALM!**



**TREMBLING WITH FEAR AND HORROR HE LEANED ON THE DRESSER FOR SUPPORT! THERE HE PERCEIVED THE SHOCK WHICH COMPLETELY UNHINGED HIS MIND!**



**WHEN PROFESSOR ENGLANDER RETURNED TO THE HOTEL, HE FOUND PIERCE DEAD! HE WAS LYING ON THE FLOOR IN A POOL OF BLOOD, HIS HEAD COMPLETELY SEVERED FROM HIS BODY -- IN HIS HAND WAS CLUTCHED A LARGE KNIFE -- IT HAD BEEN THE ONLY THING LEFT TO DO -- THE ONLY WAY TO BREAK "THE CURSE OF THE ZAMBOORI!"**

**The END**



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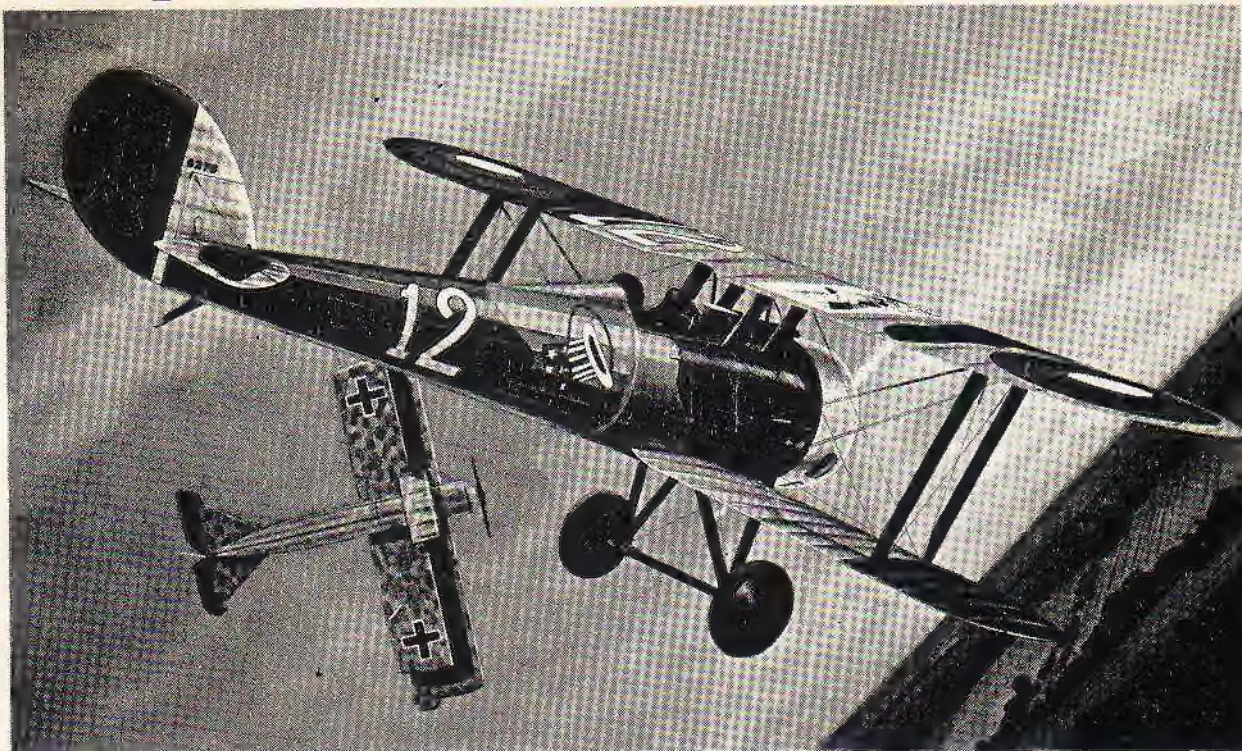
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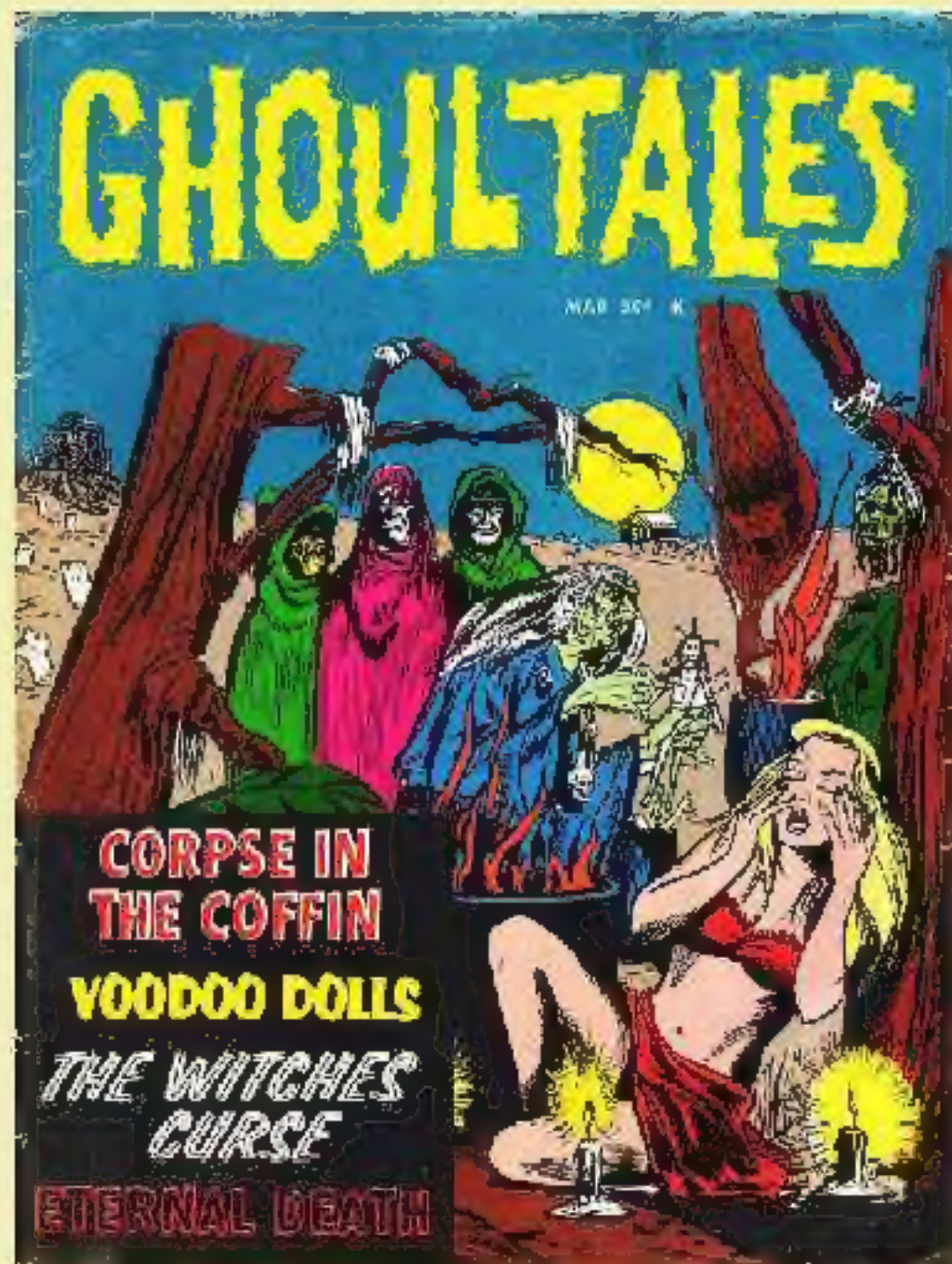
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